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27 October 1981

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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EXPANSION OF GULF BANKS IN INDIA REPORTED

London 8 DAYS in English No 38, 26 Sep 81 p 41

[Text]

MIDDLE EASTERN, European and American banks are queuing up for licences from India's Central Bank to open branches in India. Bank of Oman and Emirates Commercial Bank are among those which have already secured licences.

India has been restricting the growth of foreign banks in India while aggressively pursuing a policy of overseas expansion for its own nationalised and private banks. By December 1979, it had managed to mobilise \$1.9bn in deposits through its 127 overseas branches. Foreign central banks are now demanding reciprocal facilities, and as a result Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Bank of California, Bankers Trust, Chemical Bank, Société Générale and Banque de la Indo-Chine et la Suez have also gained permission to open branches in India.

India is lucrative for foreign bankers — to take just one example, American Express made a profit of \$1.5m with its three Indian branches during 1977. The discovery of offshore oil has improved India's international credit rating: Indian bankers can borrow eurodollar funds for as little as 3.8 per cent over Libor.

Middle East banks are looking for investment avenues, moreover. The Bank of Oman, owned by Al Ghurair group of Dubai, opened its Indian branch in the wake of large-scale investments by the group in western India.

CSO: 4400/15

REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF NORTH-SOUTH YEMEN TALKS REVIEWED

London 8 DAYS in English No 38, 26 Sep 81 pp 6-7

[Article by Deborah Smith: "The Yemens Start To Talk"]

[Text]

THE PROSPECT of a new balance of power along the Red Sea was opened by the visit of South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammed to the North Yemeni capital, Sanaa.

Some Yemeni sources described the visit on 14 September, as merely 'a stopover on President Mohammed's way to the Steadfastness Front summit in Benghazi.' But with his northern counterpart, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, facing a growing military threat from South Yemeni-supported rebels of the National Democratic Front (NDF), the talks between the two must have been more than merely formal.

The meeting was the first intra-Yemeni summit since NDF negotiations with President Saleh's government broke down in mid-1980, a development which prompted the NDF to resume its military activities against the regime.

The discussions between the two presidents also came only a few weeks after President Mohammed joined the Libyan and Ethiopian leaders in a tripartite axis backed by their mutual friend, the Soviet Union. 'Undoubtedly, South Yemen was strengthened by the conclusion of that treaty,' one Arab strategic expert commented. 'Now, they will presumably hope to extend their new influence further north.'

There, in the breathtaking mountains of North Yemen, government forces numbering an estimated 15,000 have been locked into escalating battles with the NDF's estimated 8,000 fighters. The NDF now controls a strip across the south of the country considerably wider than it held during its last uprising, in 1978.

The North Yemeni army has no shortage of equipment, having been extensively supplied by both the Soviets and the Americans over a number of years. Indeed, the government in Sanaa was able to sell quite substantial shipments of Soviet-made equipment to the Iraqis in the early months of the Gulf war, without seriously depleting their own inventories.

These now consist of about 700 tanks, heavy artillery, armoured cars and MiG 17, MiG 21 and American F4 fighters. But some military experts consider that North Yemen lacks the trained manpower needed to operate much of this equipment.

The NDF unites much of North Yemen's very wide spectrum of political opposition, including Nasserists, pro-Syrian Baathists, socialists, marxists and supporters of Colonel Qaddafi. When their 1978 uprising ended after Kuwaiti mediation in early 1979 between the North and South Yemeni governments, they opened discussions with President Saleh to obtain some share in central government power. Those talks broke down in summer 1980, and since then the NDF has re-opened guerrilla actions against President Saleh's army.

The terrain is ideally suited to their tactics. The mountains south of North Yemen's second city of Taizz rise between 5,000 and 12,000 feet and are cut by narrow defiles and steep wadis which make ideal ambush sites for NDF guerrillas who have lived and fought in the area all their lives.

While the military arm of the NDF has become increasingly confident in recent weeks, its 400 hard-core political cadres have been equally successful in mobilising

opinion in the villages. In areas under NDF control, schools, clinics and local courts have brought services to a population which has long felt itself neglected by the government in Sanaa. The NDF can also make political propaganda out of the behaviour of army units who, faced with an elusive quarry, have often searched villages and ransacked houses.

There have also been reports of government forces bombing recalcitrant villages from the air, an unwelcome reminder of both British and Egyptian tactics in the region. With government media making no mention of the fighting whatever, reports such as these often act in the rebels' favour.

The Yale graduate who is now Saleh's prime minister, Dr Abdul Karim al Iryani, is officially optimistic. 'I can assure you there is not a single place in North Yemen, not a road, a valley, a mountain or a village where we can't go,' he says. 'And there has not been a single incident when the security forces have confronted any more than 20 or 30 people.'

But such public confidence is not reflected in private discussions with senior ministers and other members of the North Yemeni administration. They have recog-

nised for some time that unless some steps are taken, the NDF would have to be offered a place in the government — or it might bring down the whole regime.

Arab analysts stress that the key to any form of central government authority in a society still deeply riven by tribalism must, for the present, lie with the army. Saleh's extensive contacts inside the armed forces — which include many of his own relatives — would seem to ensure that this power base will remain relatively safe for some time.

Saleh is clearly well aware of the strategic importance of a country so closely linked at many levels to Saudi Arabia, which is host to an estimated million immigrant Yemeni labourers. He has played the international stage like a master, trading off Soviet and western ambitions in the region for arms and aid. Closer to home, he has tried to steer a difficult middle course between the conservative Saudis and the pro-Soviet regime in the South Yemeni capital of Aden. Now, with the air of political and superpower confrontation becoming thicker throughout the Arabian peninsula and the Red Sea, that middle road may become more and more difficult to tread.

TRIBAL CHIEFTANS CALL FOR RETURN OF ZAHER SHAH

Paris LE MATIN in French 6 Oct 81 p 11

[Text] The return of the former king of Afghanistan, Zaher Shah, to the political scene was the subject of a message sent from Rome where he has been living since 1973. In it, the former monarch who had ruled his country for forty years declared his solidarity with the Afghan people in their religious and national struggle. He was gratified by the holding of a meeting recently of the Grand Assembly of Tribal Chiefs and chiefs of the resistance groups in a place in Pakistan close to the border. Some of the chiefs belonging to several resistance parties have proposed that Zaher Shah take leadership of the struggle against the Soviet occupation.

It is precisely in this area of Pakistan close to Quetta in Baluchistan where two Afghan MIG fighters have come once again to violate the border and open fire, but without causing any casualties among the population.

CSO: 4619/14

AFGHANISTAN

SUCSESSES OF REBEL TACTICS DISCUSSED

Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 23 Sep 81 p 4

[Article by Ug.: "Meeting of Afghan Resistance Fighters in Quetta"]

[Text] Delhi, 20 September. Last Sunday, Afghan freedom fighters and refugees came together for about a week in Quetta, the capital of the Pakistani province of Beluchistan, in order to elect a legislative council. This meeting for election of a Yirga represents another attempt to bring the notoriously disunited resistance forces together under some kind of leadership. So far, all unification attempts have failed on account of the political, ethnic, religious and social differences between the individual resistance groups. Various sources even reported instances of actual fighting within Afghanistan, involving the radical Islamic Hezb-i-Islami and more moderate groups. In view of the remarkably strong interest the Afghan refugees and rebels are taking in the Yirga, it seems safe to conclude that large circles are weary of the internal dissension and recognize the need for a representative body having credibility abroad. The advocates of the Yirga hope that election of a council, which in turn is to appoint some kind of executive, will result in increased support and arms shipments from the Western world and from Islamic countries. Reportedly, the Yirga is backed by ministers of the former Afghan Daud Cabinet and by a number of moderate tribal representatives. The funds required for staging the assembly--which probably will be attended by several thousand persons--reportedly were donated by Afghan tribes from the Herat region.

Quarreling Groups

It remains to be seen whether the Yirga to be elected will be able to nominate representatives agreeable to all and what effect the events in Quetta will produce on the resistance fighters within Afghanistan. The six quarreling groups, which are headquartered in Peshavar, the capital of Pakistan's northwestern border province, and which have arrogated to themselves the role of spokesmen and protagonists of the Afghan resistance movement, do not exercise much control over the events within Afghanistan. The main task of the groups is to organize the supplies--above all the arms supplies--tacitly tolerated by Pakistan. In addition, in the international arena they operate as propaganda institutions. Whereas the more moderate groups are financed by the Gulf states, the Hezb-i-Islami reportedly is supported by Libya, Iran and the Moslem Brotherhood. However, the burden of the actual fighting is carried by the local population, which enters into shifting alliances--depending on the supply promises--with the groups in Peshavar.

In the last few months, the situation in Afghanistan has markedly changed. Whereas in the winter, after the initial euphoria over the successful resistance to the Russian bear, there was a widespread feeling of powerlessness, in the spring the freedom fighters again gained in self-confidence. The main reason for this increase in confidence was the advanced weaponry supplied above all by deserters from the Afghan army, but also the arms shipments from abroad. At present, the morale of the resistance fighters is very high--a fact increasingly apparent to the Russian army and the remaining units of the Afghan military. While the rebels have always been in control of the rural regions, the enemy's armed forces now are barely able to keep open the lines of communication between the cities occupied by them. Thus it now takes a convoy 2 days to get from Kabul to Kandahar and as a rule it is accompanied over the whole distance by two combat helicopters. As it is, the Red Army increasingly relies on its helicopters, which are largely beyond the reach of the freedom fighters, and avoids direct confrontations on the ground. Thus the Red Army shows that it respects the fighting morale, but also the clearly improved tactical skills of the freedom fighters.

Infiltration of the Armed Forces

The Red Army appears to be confronted with the problem of increasing infiltration of the Afghan armed forces. So far, the Afghan army has been notable above all for the desertions: Its strength is assumed to have declined from 80,000 2 years ago to between 20,000 and 30,000; some battalions number no more than 20 soldiers. At present, however, an increasing number of soldiers choose secretly to collaborate with the resistance movement rather than desert. Incidentally, a similar development has been noted in the civilian administration.

Heavy Fighting in Kandahar

Islamabad, 21 September (afp). After extremely heavy fighting with the Soviet occupation forces and the Afghan army, the Islamic guerillas in Afghanistan have again gained control over Kandahar, the provincial capital. However, according to unanimous reports from exiled Afghan resistance groups and Western diplomats in Pakistan, the Soviet troops have been able to hold their positions at the airport and in a number of outlying districts. The fighting, during the inner city was devastated, was still continuing on Monday.

Since the beginning of the year, the city of Kandahar has been the focus of heavy fighting; during these engagements, the Mujahedin repeatedly succeeded in gaining a foothold in the center. In May, Soviet troops had launched an extensive mopping-up operation, during which they subjected the bazaar districts to helicopter bombardment.

Heavy fighting has been reported from western Afghanistan as well. Since the end of August, the Soviet forces have been trying here to capture a number of resistance positions on the Iranian border in the province of Fahren. The guerillas claim to have successfully defended their positions. Reportedly, a Soviet general was killed in the fighting.

DRA FOREIGN MINISTER DENOUNCES IMPERIALISM AT UN

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 26,27,28,29 Sep 81

[Speech by Shah Mohammad Dost at UN General Assembly]

[26 Sep 81 p 2 Part I]

[Text]

MOSCOW, September 26 (Tass).— Follows the full text of a speech by Shah Mohammad Dost, DRA Foreign Minister, at the UN General Assembly on September 22.

Mr President: On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, let me sincerely congratulate you on your election to the august post of the President of the General Assembly. We are quite confident that under your able and competent guidance the present 36th session of the General Assembly will make appropriate progress in resolving the vital problems related to the consolidation of world peace and security.

I take this opportunity to point out that relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the country you represent are friendly and continue to develop in various fields to the mutual advantage of our

two peoples. I would like to assure you, Mr President, that the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will fully cooperate with you and will do its best to help you in discharging your momentous duties.

Let me also express our thanks to Mr Wehmar, the outgoing President of the General Assembly. It was due to his tireless activity and diplomatic skill that the 35th session of the United Nations General Assembly made a contribution to the solution of some topical international issues.

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan heartily congratulates the delegation of the Republic of Vanuatu on the admission of the newly-born state of Vanuatu to the United Nations. The accession of the Republic of Vanuatu to independence is one more step towards

the complete and final liquidation of the abhorrent colonial system. We wish the people of Vanuatu prosperity and every success in the political, and social and economic development.

DETERIORATION

Mr President: The current session of the General Assembly begins its work at a time when the international situation has visibly deteriorated and when new additional efforts and measures are needed to prevent further worsening of the world climate, stop the drift towards the danger of war and reverse the present perilous course of events.

The origin and the causes of the present aggravation of international tensions are well known to everybody. They are to be found in the reckless war-mongering adventurist policies of the

United States imperialism and Peking's hegemonism.

The events of the last few months have amply and convincingly shown that United States imperialism and Chinese hegemonism put all their stakes on the use of force, and rely on whipping up the arms race and brandishing nuclear weapons. The United States imperialism is trying to drive the peoples of the world into submission by working out plans to deploy their nuclear weapons in various parts of the globe.

The White House and the Pentagon arbitrarily declare regions situated far away from the United States as spheres of their "vital interests" and dispatch to those areas the so-called 'rapid deployment forces'. At an ever increasing pace they are establishing new military bases all over the world.

Particularly dangerous are the United States plans to begin a large scale production of the neutron weapon—the most sophisticated, barbaric and abhorrent means of annihilation of the human race. The Afghan people together with the other peace-loving peoples of the world resolutely condemn these plans, and demand that President R. Reagan reverse his decision. It is our view that this assembly should urgently approve a resolution calling for a

ban on the production and deployment of the neutron weapon.

In these grave circumstances, when aggressive imperialist and hegemonist quarters are hurriedly pushing the world to the brink of nuclear holocaust, particularly timely is the appeal of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR 'to the parliaments and the peoples of the world' which meets the aspirations of all nations of the globe. This appeal is a clear-cut testimony of the relentless efforts of the Soviet Union at curbing the arms race, disarmament, and at safeguarding peace and security in the world.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is an ancient Asian country and we follow with special concern the latest developments of the Asian continent. The major source of tension in Asia lies in aggressive ambitions of imperialist, Zionist and hegemonist forces. These forces are definitely trying to reverse the post-War trends in Asia, crush the will of the Asian nations towards independence, drag them into fratricidal conflicts and wars, grab their natural resources, turn some of the Asian countries into mere pawns in their imperialist and hegemonist games, and make certain countries the springboards of aggression against the peace-loving countries of Asia.

Particularly dangerous for the peoples of Asia are the United States militaristic activities in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf. The Pentagon is hurriedly building here facilities for the 'rapid deployment force' and for permanently stationing in this area at least two aircraft carrier groups. This year alone seven hundred million dollars have been allocated for the expansion and modernisation of the American naval and air force bases on the island of Diego Garcia. There is evidence that the Pentagon is going to use these bases for stockpiling nuclear weapons including the neutron weapon.

INDIAN OCEAN

It is not surprising that the United States and its allies torpedoed the work of the last session of the United Nations Ad-Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean. Apparently, they are against the convocation of a conference to work out an international agreement on turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. It is the firm view of the Afghan delegation that this assembly should take a decision to expedite the convening of such a conference no later than next year. We should not allow the imperialist and hegemonist forces to block the demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean.

[Text]

One of the most vital problems to be settled is that of the Middle East. It is high time for this assembly to take effective measures to restore peace in that area, put an end to Israeli aggression against Arab countries, liberate lands illegally occupied by the Zionist aggressor, and restore the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arabs including their right to statehood.

It is now perfectly clear that treacherous Israeli-Egyptian American deals and the separate Israeli-Egyptian 'treaty' did not bring the solution of the Middle East problem an inch nearer. On the contrary, they worsened the situation in that area still further. It is time therefore to go back to a collective search for an all-embracing, just and realistic settlement in the Middle East within the framework of a specially convened international conference. It is imperative that side by side with the other interested parties the Palestine Liberation Organization, as the sole and authentic representative of the Palestinian people, should take part in such a conference.

The recent barbarous Israeli raids against Palestinian civilian targets in Southern Lebanon and Beirut that resulted in 2,567 casualties and destruction of hundreds of

Palestinian hospitals, schools and houses, has added a dangerous dimension to the Middle East conflict. The six member-mission of the Non-Aligned coordinating Bureau, of which Afghanistan was a member, visited Lebanon from 20th to 23rd August to examine and assess the damage and destruction resulting from Israeli attacks on Beirut and South Lebanon. Report of this mission determines the genocidal nature of these attacks that resulted in the death of hundreds of civilians including the elderly, women and children.

SAFEGUARDS

Effective measures should be taken to prevent further acts of Israeli aggression against the sovereign state of Lebanon, frustrate the Zionist plans to dismember Lebanon, and safeguard its territorial integrity. It is also necessary to prevent any repetition of Israeli aggression and provocations against other Arab countries.

The situation remains tense in the Gulf area as well. This is the result of the United States and other Western countries deploying more naval and air forces there, and of the military conflict between Iraq and Iran which unfortunately still goes on. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan believes that the situation on the Gulf area can be

effectively defused by concluding an international agreement along the lines suggested almost a year ago by the Soviet Union. Such an agreement would safeguard the sovereign rights of the countries of that area and the security of maritime and other communications connecting the region with the rest of the world.

The Iraqi-Iranian war which began a year ago is a sad, unfortunate and deplorable event. It is senseless from the viewpoint of the Iraqi-Iranian national interests but is of great advantage for imperialist quarters. The Democratic republic of Afghanistan is earnestly in favour of the speediest political settlement of the conflict between the two countries and is ready to help this process in whatever possible way.

Turning our eyes to South-East Asia, where due to the hegemonist and great chauvinist ambitions the process of normalization is impeded, we restate our staunch support for the constructive initiatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Lao People's Democratic Republic aimed at turning this area into a zone of peace based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness.

INTERFERENCE

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is against any debate here on the so-called 'Kampuchean question' aimed at an outright interference in the domestic affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. It is urgent that lawful rights of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in the United Nations should be restored without delay and the agents of the bloody Pol Pot gang thrown out of this assembly. We do not recognize the decisions of the so-called 'Conference on Kampuchea' which was held despite the strong objection of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan would also like to reiterate its solidarity with the constructive efforts of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea aimed at peaceful democratic reunification of the country. We support the just demand of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea for the withdrawal of the foreign troops from South Korea and resolutely condemn the South military regime for repression against the people of South Korea.

We studied with great interest the latest initiative of the Mongolian People's Republic which advanced the proposal to work out and sign a convention on mutual non-aggression and non-use of

force in relations among the state of Asia and the Pacific. The practical implementation of that initiative would be a great step forward in normalizing relations in that part of the world.

The imperialist and hegemonist propaganda machine spreads a lot of malicious and slanderous allegations about events in Afghanistan and around it, and tries to portray these events as a threat to peace and stability in South-West Asia. Yet, this is nothing but a dirty trick to divert the attention of the world public opinion from imperialist and hegemonist aggressive schemes in Asia and in other parts of the world. The imperialist media follows the dictum—if you repeat a lie one hundred times somebody may believe it.

But, the sinister attempts to conceal the truth about the Afghan revolution are of no avail; it is impossible to cover the sun with the palm of the hand.

Any unbiased observer visiting Afghanistan these days can see with his own eyes that, despite great difficulties imposed on the Afghan people by the enemies of the Afghan revolution and an undeclared war waged against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by the imperialist and hegemonist forces and their mercenaries, the people of the Democratic Republic of Afghan-

istan under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan during a comparatively short period of time have scored great successes along the road of economic, political and social progress.

The overall situation in the country is being consolidated, the organs of people's power are being strengthened, the political and social foundation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is being expanded and enhanced.

One of the vivid manifestations of this process was the establishment last June of the National Fatherland Front, which was joined by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, trade Unions, farmers' cooperatives, the supreme 'jirgah' of tribes the High Council of Scholars and Clergy, the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan the Women's Democratic Organization of Afghanistan and some others. One can see that the front represents practically all the classes and strata of the Afghan people supporting the goals of the national democratic Revolution.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has taken effective measures to develop the economy, raise the level of industrial and agricultural production, and improve the living standards of the toiling masses. Despite the eco-

conomic dislocation and disruptions caused by the armed aggression from the outside the plans of economic and social development and the second stage of the land reform are being successfully implemented. We have all the grounds to state from this rostrum that the toiling people of Afghanistan have never lived **better than after the April Revolution**, they have already begun to reap the fruits of a new just and equitable social system.

EXPLOITERS

These achievements could have been even more impressive but for the continuing armed aggression from the territories of the neighbouring countries, mainly from Pakistan. This armed aggression and other forms of

intervention are being stirred up by US imperialist and Chinese hegemonist quarters; mercenaries are being recruited by those who were deprived of their privileges by the April revolution and who took refuge abroad.

Attempts of the imperialist propaganda to describe those people as 'mujahidins', 'freedom fighters', 'rebels', etc are futile. They are nothing but former feudals and their lackeys who like their ancestors sucked the blood of the Afghan people, and lived in luxury dooming the people to misery and deprivation. They do not fight for the freedom of the Afghan people but for the freedom to exploit them, for the restoration of their

lost privileges. Therefore, to think or to talk of these counter-revolutionary mercenaries otherwise, means outright hypocrisy; it is an insult to the common sense of the Afghan people.

These bandits daily invade Afghanistan, disrupt the normal life in the country, kill our people, women and children and the elderly, destroy schools and hospitals, and loot people's and state property. The Afghan army, police and security forces supported by the people deal blow after blow to the bandits, capture and disarm them. Captured and repentent mercenaries regularly appear at the Press conferences held in Kabul for Afghan and foreign journalists.

[28 Sep 81 p 3 Part III]

[Text]

The Afghan army and the people would have wiped out the counter-revolutionary bands long ago had they not been supported by the imperialist and hegemonist quarters as well as by some reactionary Islamic regimes. The counter-revolutionary gangs are paid in US dollars, British pounds, West German marks, Saudi rials, etc. They are armed with American, British, Chinese, West German and Egyptian

weapons and trained by American, Chinese, Egyptian and Pakistani instructors. Some Western countries declared the policy of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan as their official policy.

President Reagan announced last March that his government would henceforth supply the so-called Afghan 'Mujahidins' with weapons and ammunition. The covert CIA

operation of support for Afghan counter-revolutionaries which was initiated under President Carter has become an overt policy of the US Government.

The United States intervention in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is growing and intensifying. One can find ample evidence of that even in the American Press.

CONSPIRACY

An article by Pulitzer prize-winner Carl Bernstein in the 17th July 1981 issue of The New Republic sheds some light on the scope of the international imperialist conspiracy against Afghanistan headed by the United States and also involving China, Pakistan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Bernstein writes that President Carter ordered the secret supply arms programme launched in December 1980 and that the Reagan administration reviewed the clandestine operation and ordered it to be expanded. 'The CIA has coordinated the operation through counterpart intelligence services in the four other countries and diplomatic channels were not used', reports Bernstein, 'America's Nato allies were neither consulted nor asked to participate'. He said that the operation also involved China's permission of overflights of its territory by the aircraft carrying arms to the 'Afghan resistance fighters'.

'The United States' continued Bernstein 'has provided financial assistance, 20 to 30 million dollars to start with and considerably more since.' He added that the entire operation is now estimated at more than 100 million dollars.

So the major and only reason for the tense sit-

uation around Afghanistan is armed aggression from the outside and other forms of interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan fuelled by imperialist and hegemonist quarters. It was this intervention that prompted the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to invite a limited contingent of Soviet troops to help the Afghan army repel the aggression.

Guided by the peaceful principles of its foreign policy and a sincere desire to defuse tension in the area and normalize the relations with the neighbouring countries, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan put forward in May 1980 a realistic programme of political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan which is the result of the imperialist policy of intervention and aggression. Less than a month ago, the Afghan Government came forward with a new initiative and experience accumulated during the contacts with interested parties which had taken place since May 1980.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's statement of August 24 has been distributed as an official document of this assembly and I shall be brief in explaining some of its

major ideas.

Reaffirming its readiness to hold direct negotiations with the Governments of Pakistan and Iran to normalize relations with them the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan proposes such negotiations be conducted either on a bilateral basis, which is more preferable and most promising, or, if the Governments of Pakistan and Iran insist, to have trilateral negotiations. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan did not object either to these negotiations, whether bi-or trilateral, being attended by the United Nations Secretary-General or his representatives.

We are also of the opinion that reliable international guarantees of agreements reached as a result of such negotiations with regard to the ~~cessation and the non-resumption~~ of armed and other interference in Afghanistan affairs, must be an integral part of a political settlement. We agreed that the discussion pertaining to the working out of such guarantees and determining which countries would be guarantors be started simultaneously with and conducted parallel to bi-or trilateral negotiations among the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran.

ACHIEVEMENT

The achievement of a political settlement, including the working out of international guarantees, will respectively give an opportunity to determine by agreement between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the timetable of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The pullout of troops would be contingent on the progress in implementing the reached agreements, it would be conducted, so to say, stage by stage.

Mr President: The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been authorized to start direct bilateral or trilateral negotiations with the delegations of Pakistan and Iran on the basis of the ideas I have just outlined. We are ready to discuss ways and means of a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan here and now, during the current session of the General Assembly. I call upon the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan and Iran to get down to the negotiating table and start discussion on the issues of mutual interest without further delay. I also invite, Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, or his representative to be present at these talks.

There have been some references to the proposal of the EEC Council of Ministers concerning the so-called 'international

al conference on Afghanistan'. This proposal has never been conveyed to us officially but the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has already stated that it is unrealistic and totally unacceptable to Afghanistan. It is unacceptable because it constitutes yet another attempt to violate the sovereign rights of the Afghan people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and to interfere in its domestic affairs. Matters concerning the existing regime in Afghanistan, the composition of its Government, as well as other internal issues are not to be discussed at any international forum. These matters are being solved and will be solved in the future only by the Afghan people but not by anybody else. Besides, nobody has the right to discuss the problems pertaining to the sovereign rights and national interests of Afghanistan, including the situation around the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, without the participation of the legal and authentic representative of the Afghan people, namely, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

MAIN POINTS

Mr President: These are the main points I wanted to make on the problems concerning the maintenance of peace and security in Asia, including the area of South-West Asia, and ways

and means of eliminating hotbeds of tension in this part of the globe. We are optimists and we are confident that the will of the peoples, their desire for peace and good neighbourly relations shall eventually prevail over adventurist aggressive ambitions and schemes of imperialism and hegemonism, and Asia will become a continent of peace, tranquillity, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Now let me dwell upon certain other international issues which are of special concern to the developing countries.

The paramount problem is the problem of curbing the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race which now constitutes a threat to the very existence of the human race. It is totally inadmissible that more than 500 billion dollars are squandered away annually for military purposes while the most acute problems of the developing countries remain unresolved.

There is no more important goal than that of forestalling the nuclear confrontation which may wipe out hundreds of millions of human lives. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan therefore fully supports the proposal put forward today from this rostrum by Andrei Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet

Union, that a declaration should be adopted by this assembly on behalf of all United Nations member-states solemnly proclaiming that states and statesmen who would be the first to use nuclear weapons would commit the gravest crime against humanity.

This is a simple and straightforward idea, appealing to the peoples of all continents and all countries. Adherence to it will be a decisive step in the direction of preventing a nuclear disaster and reliable barrier for those who contemplate such plans.

[29 Sep 81 pp 4,3 Part IV]

[Text]

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan also fully supports the proposal of the Soviet Union to stop the production of the nuclear weapons and reduce the stockpiles of such weapons until their complete destruction. We know that in 1979 this proposal was conveyed to the disarmament Committee but discussion of this vital problem is being blocked by China and some Western countries. We feel that this assembly should call on the Disarmament Committee to expedite the practical discussion of this issue.

Negotiations on some other aspects of checking the nuclear arms race should also be speeded up. We note with great satisfaction the readiness of the Soviet Union to continue talks with the United States on the qualitative and quantitative limitation of strategic nuclear arms. We think that at this assembly should

urge the United States to take a more positive stand on this vitally important issue.

Afghanistan is in favour of the earliest resumption of talks between the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain on banning nuclear weapons tests. We also support the idea of creating a special working group within the Disarmament Committee to help resolve the problem. The threat of a nuclear holocaust would be somehow lessened if an international convention is signed at strengthening the guarantees of the security of those states which do not have such weapons on their territories.

PROPOSALS

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan welcomes initiatives aimed at preventing the use of outer space for military purposes and promoting the international peaceful cooperation in space. Therefore, we fully support

the proposal of the Soviet Union to work out a treaty banning the placement in the outer space of weapons of any kind. Such a treaty would be a reliable barrier to the arms race in the outer space, which may have unpredictable consequences.

It is also necessary to expedite the negotiations on a comprehensive agreement banning new kinds and new systems of weapons of mass destruction as well as on agreements and conventions outlawing certain weapons, particularly the neutron, radiological, and chemical weapons.

As a developing country, Afghanistan regrets that until now no progress has been achieved with regard to reaching an agreement on the reduction of military budgets of states. Such an agreement would have released funds so much needed by the developing coun-

tries, particularly the least developed among them, like Afghanistan.

We feel that all these problems and many others can be fruitfully and constructively discussed and resolved at the Second Special United Nations General Assembly Session on Disarmament scheduled for 1982 and the World Conference on Disarmament.

Now that it is generally recognized that the international situation has dangerously deteriorated, it is more important than ever to work out and conclude a world treaty on the non-use of force in international relations. We call upon the United Nations Special Committee to speed up the work on the relevant draft.

Mr President: The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is of the opinion that the current session of the United Nations General Assembly has to take most effective measures to eliminate the last vestiges of colonialism, racism and apartheid. All the United Nations member-states should totally and fully comply with the provisions of the plan of action aimed at complete implementation of the declaration of decolonization approved by the 35th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

This is particularly important since during the last few weeks the world has witnessed insolent, arrogant attempts by certain western countries to revive the worst practices of the colonialist, imperialist diktat and suppression of the peoples fighting for their freedom.

High-handed, bloody tactics of the Pretoria regime which not only brutally suppresses the indigenous population of South Africa and Namibia but commits acts of aggression against independent sovereign states is a clear-cut demonstration of such arrogance and insolence. The outrageous behavior of Pretoria would have been impossible if it had not been supported and armed by certain Western powers, particularly the United States. The Pretoria regime and the so-called 'contact group' of the five Nato countries in violation of the well-known decisions of the United Nations particularly the resolution 435 of the Security Council, are trying hard to install in Namibia a puppet Government and deprive SWAPO of its legitimate role in shaping the future of this territory.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan resolutely condemns these neo-colonialist maneuvers by the Western powers and Pretoria; we come out in favour of real independence for Namibia

and transfer of power without any further delay to SWAPO which is the only legitimate authentic representative of the Namibian people, recognized by the United Nations and OAU.

SANCTIONS

Afghanistan supports the demand for the most effective and stringent sanctions against Pretoria as provided for by Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. We are also for strict compliance with the sanctions against the apartheid regime already imposed by the Security Council. We resolutely condemn the armed aggression of Pretoria against Angola and strongly deplore the recent United States veto of the Security Council resolution censoring Pretoria for this aggression. Our solidarity goes with fraternal Angolan people defending their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Afghan delegation voted for the resolutions of the Special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Namibia and comes out in favour of the speediest implementation of these resolutions.

We come out in support of the people of Western Sahara struggling for their self-determination and independence.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan con-

demns the outburst of colonialism in other parts of the world as well. We are against the dismemberment and annexation of the trust territory of Micronesia which was carried out by the United States in total disregard of its duties as the administrative power and in violation of the United Nations Charter.

Afghanistan stands for the preservation of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and strict respect to its policy of non-alignment. In our view the real settlement of the question can be achieved only if due account is taken of both communities, and we support the continuation of the relations between them.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan condemns the United States for intervening in the internal affairs of Latin America and Caribbean countries, to its armed provocations against Cuba and Nicaragua, and attempts to destabilize the situation in Grenada. We express our solidarity with the heroic struggle of the people of El Salvador led by the Farabundo Front against the fascist dictatorship. We are on the side of the people of Chile putting up staunch resistance to the military clique.

FOR PEACE

Mr President: Peace and stability in its true meaning would not be achieved without fundamental changes in the existing economic system. These changes result in situation that could furnish more opportunity to the countries whose economies have been deteriorating or on the verge of collapse.

The aim of the new international economic order is to establish a new economic system based on justice and equity so that there would be not much contradiction between the rich and the poor.

The plight of the least developed countries, particularly the land-based countries, is of particular concern to Afghanistan.

The geographical disadvantage of these countries has seriously affected their trade by imposing the additional costs of transport, transit, and retransshipment.

Due to the concerted efforts of the land-locked countries, the United Nations established a special fund for these countries. The main purpose for establishing this special fund was to assist land-locked countries to have higher rate of growth despite their geographical handicaps and particularly to reduce, as much as possible, the excessive and additional transport costs which they face. Unfortunately this fund has

not yet become fully operational. It is imperative more than before, to mitigate the ever-increasing economic problems of these countries.

As one of the least developed countries, Afghanistan actively participated in the Paris Conference on the Least Developed Countries held recently.

Unfortunately, the hopes entertained by some of the countries of this group were somehow dashed because the Western capitalist states refused to undertake obligations which would make it possible to fulfill the targets voted by the International Development Strategy for the eighties for the least developed countries.

Afghanistan however welcomes the positive and constructive approach to the problems of the least developed countries taken at the Paris Conference by the Socialist countries. We are also satisfied with the all-round economic and technical cooperation between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the countries of the Socialist community, particularly the Soviet Union. This cooperation is based on the principles of complete equality and mutual benefit. It is an important factor contributing to the economic and social progress in Afghanistan.

The conscience of the world, more than ever, calls for action to eliminate poverty, hunger, and under development. Equality can never be claimed while there is hunger beside waste, poverty beside abundance and a difference of opinion on the definition of equity and equality.

Mr President: In the present tense international situation, the United Nations is called upon to play a much more effective role in working out arrangements which could help preserve peace and maintain international security. We feel that the United Nations Charter is not yet fully used in this respect as an instrument of peace. For that reason, Afghanistan su-

ports the Soviet proposal to convene a special session of the Security Council with the participation of the top leaders of states so as to search for ways of improving the world political climate.

We feel that it is important to use more effectively and constructively the United Nations Charter in its present form.

In conclusion. Mr President, let me express the hope that the 36th session of the United Nations General Assembly will be a momentous event in the efforts of peace-loving peoples of the world to avert the danger of a nuclear war, and preserve peace for the present and future generations.

Thank you, Mr President.

CSO: 4600/42

DRA READY TO DISCUSS PEACE WITH NEIGHBORS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 28 Sep 81 p 2

[Editorial: "DRA Striving for Peace in the Region"]

[Text]

In pursuance of its revolutionary, democratic and peaceful policy, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has always striven to consolidate its relations with neighbouring countries. To achieve this goal, it has time and again put forward comprehensive and all-sided proposals, maintaining not only its crystal-clear stance of peace, but has also sought ways and means of solving problems that may hinder the prospects of peace.

The deterioration of situation and its adverse affect on peace and stability in the region, makes far more urgent the need for a political solution. However, the antagonistic imperialist interventions in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, continuing from the very beginning of the victory of the Saur Revolution in the form of an undeclared war, has not only further accentuated tensions in the region. The interventions have created ob-

stacles on the path of reaching any understanding for normalisation of situation.

The DRA Government has put forward specific proposals on the question of political settlement and has demanded direct negotiations with countries involved in problems of the region. In confirmation of its previous proposals, the DRA Government put forth in its declaration of August 24, 1981, specific and effective proposals for easing the tension in the region. This declaration, while demanding cessation of interventions and the undeclared war of imperialism against Afghanistan carried out from the territory of neighbouring countries of Iran and Pakistan, indicates the good intentions of the people of Afghanistan for consolidating friendly relations and good-neighbourliness and sets out reasonable conditions for the beginning of direct talks towards strengthening of friendly mutual relations

and ending of any kind of hostilities.

The declaration also assures provision of secure conditions for the return from Pakistan of our compatriots and seeks agreements for development of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and Afghanistan and Iran based on mutual respect for national sovereignty, good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. The declaration also reflects the interests of Afghanistan in talks to reach an agreement on effective cooperation in the trade, economic, transit and cultural fields, and as a whole it manifests the great readiness of Afghanistan for political settlement of the situation.

The DRA Government's ardent desire for good relations with neighbouring countries and its peaceful intentions were once again demonstrated and stressed at the 36th UN General Assembly session by the DRA Foreign Affairs Minister.

Speaking at the current Assembly session, the DRA Foreign Affairs Minister said: "We are ready to discuss ways and means for a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan during the present session. I am calling on the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries to sit down at the negotiating table and start discussing

matters of mutual interest without further delay. I am also inviting UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim or his representative to attend such negotiations".

But, with all this sincere readiness that the DRA Government has displayed officially and repeatedly, the other side not shown any interest in or readiness for efforts for peace and stability in the region. The imperialist intervention is obstructing progress on a peaceful course and does not allow the nations and peoples of the region and the world to enjoy a peaceful life.

The imperialism viciously continues its interferences and desperately and scandalously strives to keep the tensions alive in the interest of achieving its exploitative ends in other parts of the world. Thus, it is necessary that the countries of the region, realising their international position and responsibilities, play an independent role.

With all these peaceful gestures of the DRA Government, now the people of the world are waiting to see the extent to which Pakistan and Iran are ready for direct negotiations for the cause of peace and stability in the region, which is the cherished desire of the DRA Government and people and all the peace-loving people of the world.

BBC DENOUNCED FOR IMPERIALIST PROPAGANDA

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 Sep 81 p 2

[Editorial: "The Propaganda War on Afghanistan"]

[Text]

Experience has proved that the gigantic imperialist propaganda machinery has always spread false and baseless canards about countries where its vested interests are endangered and whose people are striving to build a new life, free from exploitation. The revolution in Afghanistan and the fundamental and positive changes taking place in the interest of our people and homeland as well as peace in the region and in the world, too, have provoked a campaign of lies by the Western mass media.

From the very first moment when our people under the leadership of PDPA, became the masters of their own destiny, ousting the tyrants, lackeys and servants of imperialism and reaction so that the toiling masses in this country may progress towards material and moral prosperity, after ages of hardship and misery, the imperialist

circles who saw their interests endangered in this region not only began hatching conspiracies against the popular revolution in this country but also launched a virulent propaganda offensive against the revolutionary changes in Afghanistan.

They spread brazen lies about the revolution, but none of these fabrications helped to cover up their base and ominous designs. Their false propaganda has only helped to expose them. Now, the people not only of Afghanistan, but of the entire region recognise these media in their true colours—as instruments of international monopolists.

The BBC, the mouthpiece of British imperialism, has now once again exposed its true nature as a rumour-mongering apparatus of the West and a sentinel of the imperialists interests.

In its last Sunday's progra-

mme, the BBC 'reported' that the Soviet Embassy in Kabul was subjected to a rocket attack. It even claimed that the building of the embassy's trade representative was destroyed in the raid. Afghan counter-revolutionary elements in New Delhi were mentioned as a "source" of these reports.

The BBC authorities, who have burnt their fingers all too often, should know better by now than to rely on these "sources".

The BBC claims to have been broadcasting "independent" views and opinions, yet all its broadcasts are stained with hostility, mischief, provocation and slander against the independent countries of the world, who are striving to build a new life.

The hostile and antagonistic nature of the BBC broadcasting, the mouthpiece of the "free world", is well known to our people as well as the world at large. In the past the fal-

sifications and fabrications of this propaganda machinery of imperialism had been instantly refuted by facts themselves and the BBC has made a laughing-stock of itself time and again.

The BBC's war on Afghanistan is of a piece with its tireless crusade against all nations and peoples, who earn its displeasure by opting for true independence and assert the anti-imperialist imperative of the struggle for peace and progress.

The Soviet embassy in Kabul was not, of course, subjected to any attack. The BBC's dis-information campaign is nothing but a manifestation of the anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet hostility long adopted by imperialist radios and mass media.

The message broadcast by the BBC is loud and clear for the people: imperialist propaganda against the truth of the revolution is ferocious, but futile.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM STRESSED AS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 Sep 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Revolution Guarantees Religious Freedom"]

[Text]

When the Saur Revolution entered its new phase on December 27, 1979, the different strata and nationalities of free, independent Afghanistan won popular and democratic liberties and among them, the freedom of religious worship and rites. Now the noble people of our dear country are performing their religious rites in complete and democratic freedom. These freedoms have been embodied in Article 5 of the DRA Fundamental Principles.

In the Fundamental Principles, great attention is focussed on the freedom of religious rites. Article Five reads in part. Respect, observance and preservation of Islam as sacred religion will be ensured in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and freedom of religious rites guaranteed for Moslems..."

In pursuance of this important provision of the provisional constitution of the country, based on the will and expectations of our heroic and epoch-making

people, the DRA Government has been striving to provide all needed facilities and conditions for performance of religious rites. The Government has further expanded its activities in safeguarding the religion and protecting the national and religious practices of our people by building mosques and encouraging the clergymen and religious leaders.

After the victory of the new phase of the Saur Revolution, the Muslim people of Afghanistan, freely and without any fear, perform their religious rites. The same is true about the followers of other faiths in the country. The full freedom of religion is illustrated during the week days and on Fridays by the mosques in Kabul as well as in the provincial capitals, crowded with devout people.

During the holy month of Ramadan, added facilities were provided for the people of this country to observe it and keep a fast. Last year, over 4,000

Afghan pilgrims were admitted to Jeddah for 'haj' pilgrimage, though originally the Government wanted 8,000 people to join the pilgrimage, an unprecedented number in the history of 'haj' pilgrimage in the country.

This year, 6,000 Afghans, from the capital and provinces, are to leave for Holy Mecca by air. Though some Governments had created obstacles, DRA Government through the Islamic affairs department made persistent efforts to make the necessary preparations for the travel of the Afghan 'hajis'.

This year, more facilities have been provided for the 'hajis'. For instance, their children are to be looked after at the Watan Nursery, upon the request of the 'hajis', until the end of the 'haj' ceremonies. The 'hajis' are exempted from the guarantees in cash and kind, so that they are not required this year to leave cash or their properties as guarantee.

In the past, the Afghan

'hajis' faced difficulties specially on account of their children. They had either to take their children along, which cost them too much, or leave them uncared for. Now, with the establishment of the Watan Nursery, the 'hajis' are rid of this worry.

Following the intensive efforts made by the Government as a token of its respect for the religious beliefs of our people, the first batch of the Afghan 'hajis' left for Jeddah yesterday by an Ariana Airlines flight. A grand send-off ceremony was held at the Kabul Airport where some 'hajis' expressed gratitude for the attention paid by the party and the Government to provision of all necessary facilities for them.

These are but a few examples of the religious freedom guaranteed to the Afghan Muslim people under the Fundamental Principles. They testify that, contrary to the baseless propaganda of imperialism and its lackeys, the Islam's inviolability is guaranteed in the DRA.

PLANS TO PROMOTE TOURISM OUTLINED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 27 Sep 81 p 3

[Text]

"International tourists can fully enjoy the natural sceneries and historical relics and places of interest in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan as soon as the world devouring imperialism ceases interferences in the internal affairs of the revolution of Afghanistan. It is imperialism that has hampered tourism in Afghanistan, contrary to the lofty aspiration of the World Tourist Organisation, of which Afghanistan remains a staunch member, and against the aspirations for peace, fraternity and friendship with the world nations."

This was stated by Ghulam Rahman Ameri, President of the Afghan Tourist Organisation, in an interview with the Kabul New Times.

"In 1979", said Ameri, "the third general assembly of the World Tourist Organisation resolved that member-countries ought to celebrate the international day of tourism every year on September 27 in their respective countries, under

the motto 'Tourism and the Quality of Life'. It is a matter of pleasure, that the DRA, as an active member of the organisation, joins in marking this occasion".

"We hope to celebrate the same occasion in the years to come. The occasion will afford us an opportunity to further introduce this industry, which is a new phenomenon in our country, to our compatriots through mass media, screening of films and holding of functions, on the economic, cultural, and social aspects of tourism", he added.

Talking of the advantages of the tourist industry as an instrument of understanding among the world nations in strengthening international peace, he said that, in view of its significance, one of the mottos of international tourism was accepted as "Tourism-passport of peace."

Tourism plays an important role in the economic, cultural, historical and social life of people. That is why all the countries in the world attach great value to this industry especially

its economic benefits.

However, the importance of tourism is viewed should be seen first of all in promotion of understanding among the peoples and nations of the world. Building of contacts among peoples and nations contribute considerably to strengthening of the international peace.

Tourism also helps people to regain physical strength exhausted by mental and manual work. Tourism refreshes one's stamina.

Tourism also contributes greatly to development of roads, airports, and restoration of historical relics and treasures.

"Tourism offers an investment with quick returns, unlike in agricultural and industrial sectors. It helps in development of local industries and handicrafts and providing employment in the tourist centres", noted Ameri.

The Afghan Tourist Organisation began operation 23 years ago as a joint stock company, under the Government. In 1975, for the first time the Tourism Law was enforced in the country

and the organisation launched activities, in two different sections, public and commercial.

For the public section, a budget of Afs 12 million was approved. However, the commercial section of the organisation began functioning under the name of Afghan Tour which footed all its bills from its services rendered to the tourists and today, too, it is sustained by its reserved incomes.

Previously the Afghan Tour officials were not paid pension. However, following the Saur Revolution, their pensions were revived.

Following the revolution, especially its new phase, a number of measures were adopted to publicise tourism in the country, and one can cite the correction of brochures, the Kabul, Herat, Balkh, and Bamian tourist guidebooks as well as the Historical Afghanistan Guidebook which was published in 1977.

At present, the organisation faces no problem, but, for the future development of tourism, there will be need for adequate accommodation and means of transportation. Purchase of new equipment is envisaged in the 1361 developmental plan.

The future developmental plans of the ATO include erection of a cable car from the foot of the Asmayee mountain to its peak, which will be in use throughout the year, Ameri disclosed.

The organisation has branch offices at the Hotel Inter-Continental, the Kab-

ul Hotel and the Kabul Airport as well as in Herat, Kamo of Nooristan and Mazare Sharif. The Herat office is built in the Timurid style and fully equipped.

The offices in Mazare Sharif and Kamo of Nooristan as well as the camps in Cheghcharan and Central highway are at the service of the tourists.

The public sector organisation has a great number of employees on its payroll. The Afghan Tour, as a commercial section, has a thriving business, bringing in considerable revenues. Other public sector organisations benefiting, directly or indirectly, from the tourist industry, are the Hotel Enterprise, the Bakhtar Airlines and the Ariana Afghan Airlines.

In the private sector, those engaged in handicrafts, fur coat-making, jewellers, antique dealers, restaurants, hoteliers are among the beneficiaries.

The organisation's plans include construction of a restaurant on the Asmayee mountain, 95 per cent work on which is finished— it is hoped to be opened soon. On the international 100-bed hotel in Bamian, 33 per cent work is complete—the work has been stopped by the activities of counter-revolutionary elements. But, it is expected that work will soon be resumed.

The organisation also plans to revive the historical Kabul Covered Bazaar, known in the old days as Char Chata and to build new hotels in Mazare Sharif, Ajar Valley, Nooristan, Cheghcharan and Herat.

AGRICULTURE TO BE REEVALUATED TO COMBAT NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS

Algiers EL DJEICH in French No 219, Aug 81 pp 17-18

[Text] Food products, because they are not found equally in all areas and because they are used on a discretionary basis, have become one more weapon in the panoply of elements of domination, more and more destined to support and even to impose one's own conception of international relations and of relations between countries. A frightened world has seen how food blackmail, carried on in the Middle East, could be formidably effective, to the point of changing all the basic assumptions of the problem.

The consequence is that the danger of food dependence and the resulting political alienation has emerged from the land of fancy to become a cruel reality for the Third World. Extortion by the United States, the permanent cynicism of the "Club of Rome," added to the uncertainties of world food production, have disillusioned the developing countries. More and more, these countries are directing their development policies toward taking charge of and satisfying their own needs.

In Algeria the Central Committee of the FLN Party has devoted extended consideration to the satisfaction of national food needs, both at the level of its resolutions related to agriculture or irrigation, as well as during the preparation of the 5-year plan. This particular attention starts from an established fact: leaving aside the international situation, which is particularly vulnerable to food blackmail, the country's needs, which are already enormous, will increase steadily, considering the very high population growth rate.

During the 3-year plan (1967-1969) Algeria imported annually an average of 731 million dinars of foodstuffs. The country imported 925 million dinars of food annually during the first 4-year plan (1970-1973) and 4.049 billion dinars of food annually during the second 4-year plan (1974-1977). With 1970 as 100 the average annual index moved to 127 during the first 4-year plan and to 554 during the second 4-year plan.

Algeria imported annually an average of 618.4 thousand tons of grain during the period from 1967 to 1969; 807.8 thousand tons of grain during the period from 1970 to 1973; and 1.643 million tons of grain during the period from 1974 to 1977. In 1978 Algeria purchased 2.298 million tons of grain, or 3.7 times more than it imported during an average year of the 3-year plan period.

We can see, in the table appearing below, that the food dependence of the country continues to grow. Now this dependence is essentially on certain developed capitalist countries for grains, including the United States, Canada, and Australia, and for milk products on the countries of the EEC.

More and more, according to the Ministry of Commerce (PRESS REVIEW No 3/80), "the United States is strengthening its position in the food trade in Algeria. Whereas, during the first 4-year plan it provided Algeria with 14.21 percent of its food imports, during the second 4-year plan (1974-1977) it provided 24.7 percent of food imports. In terms of the principal strategic production, grains, the United States has a preponderant place. If one adds Canada to the United States, Algeria is dependent for about 80 percent of its imports on the center of world imperialism and on one of its principal satellites."

Is Food Dependence Inevitable?

When we analyze the reasons for food dependence, we are obliged to deal with two fundamental developments: the evolution of social demand for food products, and the manufacture of these products. It is quite clear that the national rate of population growth (3.2 percent, one of the highest in the world) is expressing in the demand for food a rhythm which is a matter of concern in itself. Each year we record about 600,000 births. Given the relationship between the birth and death rates, there are close to an additional 600,000 more older people living each year who also require food.

From the 12,096,347 inhabitants recorded in the census of 1966, the total population went up to 18,250,000 as of 1 January 1978, and the present population is estimated at 20.5 million.

According to the Research Center for Applied Economics (CREA), "this rapidly growing population is also involved in a process of rapid urbanization. The residents of cities represented 33 percent of the total population in 1966 and 41 percent in 1977. In absolute figures the urban population went up from 3.9 million in 1966 to 6.9 million in 1977. This growth implies an increase in commercial agricultural production. Even in the rural areas the number of mouths to feed requires the purchase of basic foods (grain). Already in 1968-69 the study of consumption carried out by the AARDES [Algerian Association for Demographic, Economic and Social Research] showed that the population living in rural districts bought 67 percent of the flour which they consumed. A similar rate was 75 percent for potatoes, 80 percent for vegetables, 66 percent for fruits and 69 percent for meats."

A study carried out by the Research Center for Applied Economics in 1977 among a number of farmers showed that a substantial number of those working on the land at times purchased grains, vegetables, and meat.

This is explained by a disturbing imbalance between agricultural production and food requirements. As can be seen in the table below, the production of the main food products over the past 20 years has only gone up by 2 percent per year, while the population increase has been 3.2 percent, whereas national development planning had fixed for agriculture a growth rate of 7 percent per year.

INDEX OF THE EVOLUTION OF IMPORTS OF PHYSICAL QUANTITIES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (1967-69 = 100)

Product	1966	Annual Average For the Period 1967/69	Annual Average For the Period 1970/73	Annual Average For the Period 1974/77	1978
Grains	131.5	100	130.6	226.0	371.6
Flour	74.0	100	89.8	1,138.0	2,879.1
Meat	100.0	100	6.7	1,500.0	3,900.0
Dairy products	80.2	100	127.9	1,129.5	158.4
Vegetables	-----	100	175.9	286.5	556.5
Fruits	36.7	100	162.0	225.3	217.7
Coffee, Tea, Spices	62.6	100	89.4	315.7	600.0
Oil Seeds	96.3	100	96.5	313.3	182.4
Oil and Fats	83.0	100	132.8	238.2	286.0
Sugar	88.7	100	113.0	173.9	194.5

INDEX OF PRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL FOOD PRODUCTS (PERIOD 1954/57 = 100)

	Average 1954/57	Average 1967/69	Average 1970/73	Average 1977
Grains	100	90.6	83.6	82.3
Dried Vegetables	100	51.9	72.1	114.0
Citrus Fruit	100	141.7	141.7	141.0
Nuts	100	99.7	99.7	141.7
Figs	100	74.5	74.5	92.4
Olive Oil	100	80.7	80.7	99.2
Wine	100	49.8	44.0	23.0
Truck Garden Production	100	76.9	87.5	123.0
Potatoes	100	96.4	114.0	200.0

"Regarding output of animal products," notes the magazine of the Ministry of Commerce, "production is difficult to determine because of the lack of complete statistics, but it appears that it is not very satisfactory. The production of milk, which is very poorly understood, has gone up, according to estimates, from 3 billion hectoliters in 1960 to 6.23 billion hectoliters in 1975. However, the production of meat, based on more reliable statistics due to the reports of the state-controlled slaughter facilities, has fallen from 60.2 million tons, the yearly average for the period 1954-1957, to 50 million tons, the yearly average for the period 1974-1975 (chicken meat not included in both these example)."

This weakness in agricultural production is directly linked to the secondary position assigned to agriculture in terms of investments during the preceding plans. Accounting for 11 percent annually of total expenditures during the period from 1966 to 1969, appropriations for agriculture rose to 14 percent per year during the first 4-year plan, then fell to 13 percent during the second 4-year plan. Planned investments by public agricultural enterprises fell from 26 percent (for the period 1967-1969) to 6 percent (for the period 1970 to 1977). Further, agriculture has been penalized in terms of assignment of the labor force (qualified workers and officials), since the labor training program is basically geared toward the non-agricultural sectors of economic activity. Even the school system is much more oriented toward the urban than to the rural model. Finally, the breakdown of national income, in terms of salaries and allowances, notably does not favor agriculture. In all of the last few years we have seen a double exodus of workers: first of all, a rural exodus, with workers from the countryside going into better-paid jobs in industry; then an agricultural exodus, with farmers going into better-paying rural activities, such as the retail trade, skilled and semi-skilled trades, etc.

A Possible Solution: Place a Higher Value on Agriculture

It is beyond argument that the satisfaction of national requirements for food will require placing a higher value on the agricultural sector in the national development strategy, not in opposition to the emphasis on industry already decided on but as a harmonious complement to it. For the rest, it is on the basis of this fundamental evidence that the FLN Party has made its decisions relative to agriculture. By a bold use of land, the development of the irrigation sector, the development of financing and credit institutions, the rationalization of the methods of management, and making the distribution and stocking system more dynamic, it is hoped to accomplish this objective. This means making the agricultural sector fulfill its social function of taking care of consumption needs and, over the long term, accentuating its participation in national savings. Is this possible, considering the constraints and difficulties which this sector has encountered and the demands of a continuously growing population? The future will tell us, and tell us quickly, because economic independence will require this, at least in part.

The rural world is presently undergoing notable changes: restructuring of agricultural enterprises, a decrease in bureaucratic procedures at the distribution level, etc. These changes can and must be the beginning of a re-birth of the countryside. However, this can only happen with the real participation of those who work the land themselves. They must mobilize themselves to make agriculture not a social burden, but a factor for development and progress.

ALGERIA

BRIEFS

PERMANENT LEGAL TIME ESTABLISHED--The Council of Ministers met yesterday at the presidential office under the chairmanship of Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and the secretary-general of the party. The Council of Ministers approved a draft decree submitted by the prime minister deciding the legal time. Thus legal time in Algeria will correspond to GMT plus 60 minutes throughout the year, as from the publication of the decree in the official gazette, whereas time was changing twice a year. [Text] [LD191440 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Oct 81]

CSO: 4504/32

'GAZETTE' DETAILS MUBARAK'S BACKGROUND

Cairo EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 9 Oct 81 p 2

[Text] Vice President, Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, who was unanimously nominated for the post of Egyptian President, and who is virtually certain to be assassinated President Sadat's successor in a public referendum next Tuesday, is a military man who has been the late President's right hand in the past few years and who had backed Sadat's domestic and foreign policy. Born in Menufla Governorate, Lower Egypt on May 4, 1928, Mr Mubarak joined the Military Academy on November 1, 1947, after completing his General Secondary school education.

Having successfully completed his military training and studies in the Academy on February 1, 1949, Mr Mubarak joined the Air Academy to further reinforce his military knowledge and training. He graduated at the Academy on March 13, 1950.

Instruction

Mr Mubarak started his official career in the Air Force where he was promoted to various posts. Then he worked as instructor in the Air Academy in February 1952 and filled this post till January 1959.

Mr Mubarak assumed the responsibility of an L-28 squadron leader and Tu 16 air brigade.

He was sent on a number of missions to the Soviet Union to get training on Soviet L28 and Tu 16 jet fighters.

Mr Mubarak conducted his higher studies at Franz Military Academy in the Soviet Union from February 1964 to April 1965, and was later appointed commander of different air bases.

Following the fatal blow dealt to the Air Force in June 1967, Mr Mubarak was appointed as Director General of the Air Academy, on November 11, 1967, and was entrusted with the task of training and preparing competent flight officers to rehabilitate the air forces.

On June 22, 1969, Mr Mubarak was appointed Chief of Staff of the Air Forces where he efficiently discharged his duties for four years.

On April 14, 1972, the late President issued a decree appointing Mr Mubarak General Commander of the Air Forces. Since then, Mr Mubarak reorganised the air forces and successfully groomed them for the glorious October 1973 war.

Strikes

Mr Mubarak's efficient planning and execution of the air strikes during the initial hours of the October 1973 war was crucial in tipping the balance of the battle in Egypt's favour and creating unbelievable chaos and disorder among Israelis. Thanks to his careful planning, Mr Mubarak managed to preserve the major part of the air force intact with the majority of Egyptian planes unscathed.

He was promptly promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General on October 6, 1973, that is a few hours after successfully dealing the first Air Force blow.

He was also accorded the highest military order, the Sinai Star order.

Then on April 16, 1975, the late President passed a decision of appointing Mr Mubarak as Vice President of the Republic.

The major diplomatic and political activities since then included visits to most Arab, European and African countries, besides his visits to the United States.

He was also charged with various political missions. He presided over the Egyptian delegation to the conferences convened by the Organisation of African Unity in Kampala and Mauritius.

The late President also entrusted him with intervening to bring to a halt the conflict between Algeria and Morocco on the West Sahara issue. Thanks to his good offices a bloody confrontation between the two Arab countries was averted.

Mr Mubarak was elected Vice Chairman of the National Democratic Party (NDP).

As part of his rigorous training for Egypt's supreme executive post he undertook delicate missions abroad and more often than not took Mr Sadat's place at weekly Cabinet meetings.

As Commander of the Air Force in the years of preparation for the Middle East war of 1973, he gained a reputation for hard work, thoroughness, punctuality and discipline.

Mr Mubarak, proved himself a skillful party manager with a winning style at the annual Congress of the National Democratic Party (NDP) two weeks ago.

His performance showed a new confidence and his nomination as official NDP candidate yesterday was a foregone conclusion.

Diplomats say he was a force behind Mr Sadat's decision last month to crush the growing influence of fundamentalist Islam among the country's young.

His first acts as effective ruler of Egypt yesterday were to declare a state of emergency for one year and ban any form of demonstration or mass meeting.

As the negotiator in Egypt's rearmament programme Mr Mubarak made numerous trips to Washington, Western Europe and the Far East.

Close

In Party meetings the Vice-President has backed all Mr Sadat's policies--peace, the close relationship with the United States, vociferous criticism of the Soviet role in the Middle East, free market economics and a multi-party system.

His personality is little-known in the Arab world, except in Sudan, Somalia and Oman, the three Arab states that did not break off relations with Cairo in protest against its peace treaty with Israel.

Wit

Generally portrayed as a taciturn and earnest man, the Vice-President has more always displayed quick wit and his manner with foreign visitors and the press has become more relaxed.

Fellow-officers say he reads widely and voraciously. He plays squash regularly and is in excellent health.

Both he and his wife Suzanne, educated at the American University here, speak good English. Suzanne plays an active role in social work in the Cairo suburb of Boulak. GSS REUTER

CSO: 4500/14

GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN NABAVI ATTACKS BAZARGAN

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 1 Oct 81 pp 7,8

[Text] Government spokesman Behzad Nabavi returned to the attack on former provisional premier Mehdi Bazargan and ex-president Bani-Sadr for allegedly protecting the Mojahedin-e-Khalq when he gave an interview to the ETTELAAT daily in Tehran. Bazargan, although with no access to the media, had apparently circulated a rebuttal of Nabavi's charges against him.

"I have said in one of my interviews that the reason why the monafaqin (hypocrites--the term for the mojahedin and allied leftists used by the regime) have penetrated our organisations is because the provisional government and Bani-Sadr protected them," Nabavi said. "If Mr Bazargan denies this he should send us a message at least condemning the actions of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq.

"We have documents to prove that four days before becoming president Bani-Sadr had spoken to Rajavi, who advised him to hold a demonstration on April 2. In military schools truckloads of arms were being put at the disposal of the Mojahedin-e-Khalq.

"If we are lying Mr Bazargan should come and tell us. I did not want to say that Mr Kashmiri was brought into the P.M.'s office by him (Bazargan). I was merely making an overall comment about events. (Bazargan had apparently resented what he felt was an implication that it was he who brought in Kashmiri, accused of planting the bomb which killed former president Rajai and premier Bahonar, to work again at the premier's office, where he had been employed during the Shah's regime.)

Nabavi used the interview to present a rosy picture of the Islamic regime's achievements in the economic field. He said that despite difficulties created by Bani-Sadr the government had managed to raise the level of industrial production. The government had documents to prove that Bani-Sadr encouraged the United Bus Co (Tehran's city transport) to go on strike. He was inciting workers at the Melli Shoe factory to strike.

Proper distribution of fuel had been organised, Nabavi claimed. Wheat, rice and cotton products were in a good situation. They had solved their import and port problems. As regards fuel we have achieved a great deal, and we have used substitute fuels. In Western Azarbaijan they used coal in schools, and in Kurdistan charcoal.

Asked about rationing Nabavi replied, "In war conditions we have succeeded in rationing bread, meat, chicken, eggs, sugar, rice, soap and many other products. We also control their distribution. In the light of this success we have been attacked--for instance, they say that this is what the communists do and they say "couponisation" equals communism.

"They wanted to destroy our economy with their propaganda. They did not want us to stop inflation. The reason why they attack the Economic Mobilisation Unit (which is supposed to plan economic programmes and control them) is because we have cut off the hands of the middlemen. Those middlemen have lost 23.5 billion tomans worth of profits from selling wheat and rice alone. We have reduced inflation and have kept it at 23.5 percent; this is miraculous considering we are at war."

All this had been achieved, Nabavi said, when Iran was exporting in the first six months of this year only 800,000 barrels of oil per day compared to 2 million barrels previously.

CSO: 4600/50

BAZARGAN DEFENDS MOJAHEDIN-E KHALQ IN PARLIAMENT

Athens ATHENS NEWS in English 8 Oct 81 pp 1,12

[Text]

BEIRUT, Lebanon, (AP). — Iran's former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan Wednesday criticized firing squads executions of Leftist opponents of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's regime but was interrupted and shouted down by fundamentalist members of Parliament, Teheran Radio reported.

The State-run Radio said Bazargan, who was Khomeini's first choice for Prime Minister after the 1979 overthrow of the monarchy, told an open session of the Parliament he was against summary execution of Mujahedeen Khalq guerrillas.

Irate Parliament Members protested Bazargan's defense of opposition groups and several walked out of the Majlis, the Iranian Parliament, prompting speaker Ali-Akbar Rafsanjani to call a recess, according to the broadcast monitored in Beirut.

When the Majlis reconvened, Rafsanjani said in an address to Parliament Bazargan's stand on "domestic terrorism has been interpreted in a way that exonerated the Mujahedeen Khalq from being American lackies," the Radio said.

The Speaker said Bazargan's speech angered several Deputies and "we had to interrupt the session temporarily to avert disorders," the

Radio said.

This was the first public defense of the Mujahedeen Khalq in Parliament since the June 22 ouster of ex-President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr that touched off the organization's current campaign of bombings and assassinations to overthrow Khomeini's regime.

Bazargan, who resigned the Premiership to protest the Nov. 4, 1979 seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran by Iranian militant students, had boycotted the Parliament's debate on Bani-Sadr's impeachment last June.

Hashem Sabaghian, a Parliament Member from Bazargan's National Liberation Movement of Iran told the Associated Press the angry Majlis Deputies charged the rostrum as Bazargan criticized the executions and attempted to haul him down.

"But Rafsanjani intervened personally and stopped them," said Sabaghian, who was reached at Bazargan's Teheran office by the Associated Press in Beirut.

During the recess, some of the Irate Deputies called in supporters to ring the Majlis building and chant "Death to Bazargan." But by then the former Prime Minister had left and debate was closed, Sabaghian added.

Bazargan had called for an

end to the confrontation between the regime and Mujahedeen Khalq in his Majlis speech, saying "whichever side is killed is for the benefit of the infidels," according to Sabaghian.

"Neither the clergymen nor the young girls and boys who are killed are lackies of the Americans," Sabaghian quoted Bazargan as telling Parliament. "The young boys and girls involved in the street clashes have not been bred in the bosoms of American families so that we can rightfully call mercenaries. Therefore, why is this bloodletting considered a necessity?"

It was at the point of Bazargan's speech, Sabaghian said, that Irate Deputies from the ruling Islamic Republican Party interrupted the ex-Prime Minister.

The Bazargan affair overshadowed renewed violence between Leftist and autonomy-seeking Kurdish guerrillas on the one hand and Khomeini's supporters on the other in several parts of Iran with the State Radio reporting "many" government opponents having been killed and injured.

BAKHTIAR CALLS FOR UNITY AMONG OPPOSITION GROUPS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 1 Oct 81 pp 3,4

[Text] The renewed violence in Iran has brought new appeals for unity among opposition groups inside and outside of the country in the past week. National Iranian Resistance Movement leader and last prime minister of Iran before the arrival of Khomeyni from Paris, Shapour Bakhtiar, said that in the light of the horrifying events in Iran there was no further excuse for individuals peddling their own particular policies. They must all unite, whatever their views, to deal a death blow to the regime.

"The usurper regime of the communist mullahs...is killing our children in the alleyways, the schools, the houses of cities and villages all over Iran," he said. "In the prisons others face the firing squads. Yet these are the children who are the future of Iran.

"No Iranian in these bloody days has the right to remain silent, no Iranian must remain indifferent to the satanic actions of the Khomeyni regime."

Bakhtiar said the regime was now even getting rid of those who fought with it in the uprising of 1978--"Its trenchmates"--and in the face of these bloodthirsty policies all nationalist forces had a duty to sit down and face reality; they must give up their individual slogans and unite.

How could boring slogans and disruption of unity go on at a crucial time like this, Bakhtiar asked. The regime had reached its weakest point and its "filthy life" was due to the fact that the national forces were disunited. They must come together to deal the final blow to the head of this "bloodthirsty monster."

Another group called the Iranian Liberation Organisation also distributed a statement saying the day of Iran's freedom was at hand if nationalist forces would forget their individual differences.

CSO: 4600/50

TUDEH PARTY FACING CRITICISM FROM NEW MEMBERS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 pp 8-10

[Text] The leadership of Iran's pro-Moscow Communist Party, the Tudeh, is facing mounting criticism from its newest recruits, who are mostly defectors from the Fedayeen-e-Khalq, urban guerrillas (the majority branch) and other leftist organisations. Recently the Tudeh leaders have appointed a Mr. Khosravi (first name not specified) to answer questions collected by organisers of cells from rank and file members.

Questions are mainly in two categories, informants say; firstly, on the leaders' blind support for Khomeini, and secondly, on the lack of a democratic system of communication inside the party.

The first category of questions concern mainly points like the following:

1. How can we justify support for the Khomeini regime, which is killing our own former colleagues in leftist organisation, which are in any case anti-imperialist and as such progressive?
2. Doesn't the party's total support for the mullahs mean that we have to endorse very reactionary laws and practices such as the Qasas (Tribution) Law, the veil for women, executions without trial, purges without compensation, etcetera?
3. We have difficulty in convincing people that the current anti-American campaign by Khomeini is a genuine anti-imperialist effort. People tell us that Khomeini is merely trying to divert attention from the inadequacies and corruption in his own regime.
4. We cannot justify the regime's action in closing down the universities. People tell us this is a move which is more in the interests of the imperialism than anything which the Shah did.
5. We are encountering immense hostility from the people. We see a consistent wave of nationalism which has begun to find expression in support for the industrialisation plans and achievements of the Shah's regime. Workers tell us that whereas the Shah was building a new factory every day Khomeini is closing down one every hour. Now we are importers of consumer goods whereas under the Shah we were exporters of capital goods and technology. People answer our argument that factories and industries depending on imported technology are "imperialistic" by telling us :

that the Tudeh is an instrument of the Soviet Union with the mission to create technological dependence on the USSR, whose technology is inferior.

The second category of questions covers the following areas:

1. The senior staff who run cells have a dictatorial attitude. They attend cells to give us instructions and lecture us on doctrine and ideology. But they do not allow time for discussions. They demand total obedience.
2. On major issues we are all briefed to take a single line of argument approved by the leadership, which reduces us too often to sounding like parrots. The people compare our arguments with facts obtained by listening to foreign radio broadcasts.
3. Our supervisors want us to act as agents for the party to gather information and spy on people.
4. The party's total obedience to the Soviet line is hardly justifiable. We find ourselves working to promote Soviet interests rather than interests of our own country.

In reply to these charges, Khosravi is reported to have said that 25 years of rule by the Shah under direct American supervision had created a corrupt bourgeoisie class in Iran which embraced even the working class. He said that the Iranian proletariat did not identify its own real interests, and must be guided by the intelligentsia. The sad fact that workers listened to foreign broadcasts showed the extent of corruption which the Shah's regime had created.

Khosravi then said that under the Shah the Iranians were encouraged to develop corrupt consumption habits, like Cubans under Batista. Iran has become a backwater of American corruption. Those industries dependent on imported technology were in fact agents of multinational corporations; whether German, French or British, they were all from the same source. Khomeini's harsh and seemingly reactionary rule was beneficial because it was changing the people's consumption habits; it was closing down factories which linked Iran to the West and it was forcing Iranians to adjust their standard of living to a level in line with the rest of the liberated and progressive regimes in Asia, and indeed in the region.

Khosravi said the Tudeh party was very careful not to identify itself with Muslim fundamentalists but Khomeini was personally very valuable to the party because of his systematic anti-Americanism. However, it was wrong to say that his anti-American stance was not genuine. He was using the entire media to create anti-American feelings among Iranians.

Khosravi added that Khomeini was also personally motivated by a revolutionary spirit of an international character. His animosity towards the merchant enterprising class and petit bourgeoisie was in line with the Tudeh party. He was ruthlessly fighting against nationalist groups who were today the strongest barriers to the progressive forces.

Khosravi stressed that the Iranian revolution had terminated American presence in the region. Now, Iran's foreign minister was taking part in the Benghazi Conference

getting his country closer to regimes in South Yemen, Syria and Libya who call for close relations with the USSR.

On such matters as the Qasas Law, which was undeniably reactionary, the Tudeh cadres must try to dissociate the party from the law and even criticise the law. But the Tudeh must not associate itself with petit bourgeoisie groups like that of Bazargan, the National Front and the like.

He said the party was sad that young activists of the Mojahedin were being executed by the regime. However, the Tudeh party had time and again invited Mojahedin to make an alliance which they had refused. He believed the ultimate aim of the Mojahedin was to go it alone; its leaders intended to monopolise power, they did not want to cooperate with other progressive forces. Their attempt to align with Bani-Sadr was wrong. It seemed their leaders were infected with the cult of personality and bourgeois tendencies.

Finally Khosravi said that the comrades must work hard to remove the "misconception" that the Tudeh party was an instrument of Soviet policy. He wanted the comrades to know that there was an identity of view between the Tudeh party and communist parties of progressive nations. This did not mean that Tudeh was a Soviet stooge. He gave assurances that there was no relationship between the Tudeh and the Soviet government or its official organs. The only relationship existing was between Tudeh and other communist parties--a normal phenomenon.

Meanwhile, other party chiefs are telling the young comrades to be on guard against revisionism and bad influences from China or West European communists. Young members of Tudeh are overwhelmingly from families where the father or mother or both were communists in the late 1940s and early 1950s. A typical lecture by a party instructor, as related by a Tudeh member, runs along these lines: "Your elders were activists during the Stalin era on one side and the McCarthyism of the American scene on the other side. That was then called the Cold War. Your elders have not kept abreast of developments in the socialist camp. They are not well-informed of causes for what is called de-Stalinisation or causes of rift between USSR and China. You should pay attention to recent and enlightened briefings by party comrades and disregard explanations by your parents. Your parents may be good communists but because of their isolation during the dark days of the Shah's rule, their information is out of date."

CSO: 4600/65

MONTAZERI REPORTED PREPARING TO SUCCEED KHOMEYNI

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 1 Oct 81 pp 5,6

[Text] Ayatollah Khomeyni has taken further steps to promote Hussain Ali Montazeri as his successor. On Friday, September 25, he officially delegated his authority on approving candidates for the High Council of Judiciary to Montazeri. Thus, Montazeri's image as Khomeyni's heir apparent was given yet another boost.

Meanwhile, Tehran's rumour mill went into action to suggest that Khomeyni was under mental and physical stress, an assumption reinforced by Khomeyni's protracted absence from public engagements. Some rumours late Sunday night persisted that he was in fact seriously ill, but the ayatollah received visitors and made a speech broadcast by the radio on Tuesday morning.

Interest in Khomeyni's health is high because, under the Islamic constitution, his position as the leader is crucial to continued functioning of the administration. Indeed, the constitution, which has been attacked and ever ridiculed by many Iranians ever since it was mooted, vests all authority in the person of Rouhollah Khomeyni. It is he who decides whether the people's will, shown in elections, shall be enforced or not, and whether the elected president or his premier or any other institution should go about their duties or not.

In other words, the constitution places unlimited powers of executive, legislative and judicial nature in the person of Khomeyni, who alone is empowered to confirm or veto all the top appointments. The constitution is vague about succession to Khomeyni.

His successor must be the highest religious authority, who has to be well-versed in current political affairs as well as an authority on modern sciences and knowledge.

The successor is not to be elected, does not have to be an Iranian. He must natural rise to a position of eminence and be acclaimed by public consensus. If no single person qualified as such, the position should be occupied by a group of prominent religious leaders.

The constitution was drawn up specifically to suit Khomeyni. It was drafted and put to a referendum at a time when the entire country was forced into chaos and turmoil because of the hostage issue. Indeed, the constitution was passed at a

time when close to 50 people were executed daily. Many of the people who opposed the constitution thought it a farce. They hoped that once Khomeyni was overthrown and disgraced his constitution would go with him.

Khomeyni and his cohort, however, have survived to this day, contrary to all expectations. And they hope to see the Islamic Republic survive after Khomeyni's demise. That is why the question of his succession is so important to them. Hence, the effort to promote Montazeri.

In fact, it was Khomeyni who personally saw to it that Montazeri was groomed as his successor. That was no easy task. Hundreds of theologians in Iran are senior to Montazeri. Moreover, Montazeri lacks charisma and the kind of imposing personality which is needed for the job.

Despite such shortcomings, Khomeyni has taken every opportunity to promote him as a religious-cum-political leader. His latest move was to delegate him with authority to appoint judges.

Yet Montazeri is essentially a junior cleric. He was hardly known outside his small town of Najafabad and the theological schools in Qom, where he deputized for Khomeyni as a teacher. And unlike Khomeyni, he has no record of political activity except that he spent several months in jail during the former regime.

Montazeri came to public attention in November 1978 when, just released from detention, he went to Paris to meet Khomeyni, then living there and directing the revolution. The BBC reported Montazeri's arrival in Paris. Little was heard of him later until after the revolution--April 1979 when the State radio and television began to publicize him. Even then, his son, known as Ringo, was able to achieve wider publicity because of two hi-jacking operations and similar "headline catching" exploits (the son died in the explosion of IRP headquarters).

In the summer of 1979 Montazeri was elected to the Constituent Assembly, of which he was made the chairman. Khomeyni had personally seen to it that he was elected. Then, in September 1979, a well-known cleric, Mahmud Taleghani, who was Friday prayer leader of Tehran, died and Khomeyni appointed Montazeri to succeed him. That marked the beginning of his rapid rise in the theocracy.

In the spring of 1980, he went to Qom with no official designation. But he began to act as a senior theologian, sending messages and making policy statements on behalf of Khomeyni. He was the prime voice calling on Bani-Sadr to launch an offensive against the Iraqis last winter. The offensive was a disaster and many officers held Montazeri responsible for the debacle. In Tehran's underground literature he is depicted as a simpleton, a stupid village mullah. It is doubtful how he could stand up to the senior theologians of the Shiite hierarchy if he were to succeed Khomeyni.

CSO: 4600/50

EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE DISCUSSED BY OPPOSITION PAPER

Paris IRAN LIBRE in French 28 Sep 81 pp 1-2

[Text] Soviet influence is being systematically expanded in the Islamic Republic. If Kremlin leaders are so complacent about the defeats, isolation and further weakening of the Khomeyni regime, it is because they know that in the end the authorities in Tehran will have to turn to them.

In reality, the 28 June explosion at PRI [Islamic Republic Party] headquarters killed nearly 150 personalities and dignitaries, not just 74. The latter figure has been used by the regime for domestic propaganda purposes, because it recalls the number of the Karbala martyrs, whose death has been piously mourned for 1,400 years.

Following that attack, the Soviet Embassy in Tehran offered to provide the Islamic regime security and training assistance. The proposal was rejected at the time.

A second explosion, on 30 August, cost the lives of several other officials: President Rajai, his prime minister, Bahonar, the commander in chief of the police and, rumor in Tehran has it, Fardust the traitor (childhood friend of the shah and a convert to Khomeynism, he has recently been serving as head of SAVAMA and supervised the various intelligence services).

Seized with panic and distress, the Islamic leaders remembered the Soviet offer and looked on it with more interest. This explains both the arrival in Tehran of the ambassador from the Islamic Republic to Moscow and Rafsanjani's "official visit" to North Korea (see IRAN LIBRE No 44). These were not routine movements, nor were the visits merely for the sake of protocol: Important negotiations commenced between Khomeyni and Moscow, and they took place in North Korea, far from the sight of nosy observers. It was precisely these talks which Ambassador Mokri came to set up. And, as usual, to cover its tracks and cover up its collusion with Tehran, Moscow took recourse in one of its oldest stratagems: The Soviet mass media kept up a ceaseless barrage last week of vehement attacks on the Tehran regime.

The Soviet Union is no longer content now merely to act through the Tudeh Communist Party in Iran: It wants to send its experts in espionage and counter-espionage to our country. In addition, Russian advisers will handle the training and organizing of the Pasdarans who are to carry out this kind of activity.

As the war with Iraq drags on, the USSR also sees the chance to infiltrate into the Armed Forces of Iran by means of arms sales. In reality, the bulk of our American and Western arsenal is now unusable, as a result of lack of maintenance, lack of spare parts or quite simply because it has fallen into the hands of the enemy. This materiel is being replaced, as soon as it is put out of action, by Soviet equipment which comes into the country by the plane-load on 747 jumbo jets. Every week in Tehran, reports indicate, two planes from North Korea and one plane from East Berlin arrive, and other shipments come in from Libya and Syria. Photographs taken at the front attest to the increasingly widespread use of Kalachnikov automatic rifles and Katiosha tanks. Along the same lines, most of the soldiers trained in the West--especially the pilots--have either been eliminated or sent directly to the front.

Iranian nationalists are getting more concerned with every day that passes, for Marxism is advancing with giant strides, and the Islamic Republic is increasingly dependent on economic and political assistance from the Eastern Block, while the West shows nothing but increasing indifference.

Now, in addition to our struggle against Khomeynism, we have to deal with the Soviet superpower. The task is difficult, for the West no longer distinguishes between the anti-Marxists and those so-called Islamic and progressive contenders for power who are in reality nothing but puppets still in the hands of Moscow.

We deduce, from the general attitude taken toward this problem, that the peaceful creation of another Libya or another South Yemen would fully satisfy both the appetite of the Soviets and the despicable cowardliness of the others.

9516

CSO: 4619/8

PERSIAN GULF ARABS SAID MORE ANXIOUS THAN EVER

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 pp 4-6

[Text] Representatives of other member countries of the Gulf Consultative Council as well as some moderate elements in Kuwait are said to be privately expressing reservations over the militant anti-Iranian policy of Kuwait's government and press.

There is now a general feeling that it was the restraining hand of Shaikh Rashid of Dubai which saved the smaller emirates further down the Gulf from what could have been severe retribution at the hands of the Iranian air force and navy in the early days of the war between Iran and Iraq. Shaikh Rashid is said to have warned of the consequences of any strong pro-Iraqi stand or supportive actions for Baghdad, and this nipped in the bud planned moves by the emirates to offer facilities for Iraqi forces or other obvious help.

Two Iraqi warplanes and gun emplacements set up in Ras-al-Khaimaah soon after the start of the war were removed not long afterwards, on the advice of Shaikh Rashid, it is said. He warned that "even the corpse of Iran" could threaten danger to its small neighbours.

The current serious illness of Shaikh Rashid is thus a cause of much concern among moderate Arabs in the Persian Gulf. At the moment it is thought there is some conflict of opinion between the vice president, Shaikh Marwan, who is slated to succeed Rashid in the event of his death, and Shaikh Mohammad, the Dubai emirate's defence minister and son of Rashid, who is with his father in London.

Besides seeing the Iranian air raid on the Kuwaiti installations as a warning by Tehran some Kuwaitis feel that the consequences of a victory for Saddam Hussain could be unfavourable for Kuwait. In that at present unlikely event, they point out, Kuwait might fall an early victim to Iraq's long held desire to snap up Kuwait and its oil for itself.

It is pointed out, an IPS correspondent just back from the Persian Gulf says, that it was only the overnight landing of Iranian marines in Kuwait which is believed to have stymied plans for an Iraqi move into Kuwait five years ago.

Besides the vast amounts of financial and other help given by Kuwait to the Iraqis in recent months there has been vociferous anti-Iranian comment in the Kuwaiti press. Typical was the recent criticism of the Iranian foreign minister Hossain Moussavi for his behaviour at the hardliners' summit in Libya in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL ANBA.

"Why was the Iranian foreign minister invited to an Arab summit which, out of protocol considerations, should not be attended by a delegation headed by a minister, not to mention that this minister represents a country that is occupying Arab lands and waters, and has a black record not much different from that of other invaders, crusaders or Israelis? it asked.

"Even ignoring the reason for his invitation, how about his attendance and his speech that was filled with challenge to whoever has an Arab pulse throbbing. We are surprised that those who stayed silent did so while the Gulf was described as being Persian in sentences that lacked the slightest tinge of respect and courtesy for the conference and hosts.

"The Iranian foreign minister acted in the Tripoli summit as if he was the host in possession of a cause. That is why Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi was exasperated and denounced the minister's reference to the Persian Gulf. Although Col. Gaddafi did not grab him by the scruff of the neck and throw him out, the Iranian minister withdrew from the meeting in protest against the Libyan leader's stance."

IPS' correspondent in the Persian Gulf says Iraq has already received something like \$14b. worth of cash, goods and oil from Arab supporters, mainly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Kuwait is honouring Iraq's pre-war oil contracts, while the money goes to Baghdad. Between 2 and 4 a.m. the road into Iraq from Kuwait's Mina port is one way, with fleets of trucks carrying foods into Iraq, local people said.

While further down the Persian Gulf the majority of Iranians living in the emirates are pro-Shah and photographs of the late Shah and his son are freely on sale in the bazaars, in Kuwait supports of the old regime and Khomeini seems to be evenly balanced. The fact that the Khomeini supporters are much more vociferous means they have the edge in influence. Here Khomeini pictures are most prominently on sale.

Since embassies abroad have been asked by Tehran to try to raise their expenses locally the cost of renewing passports in Kuwait has become expensive. Iranians there told IPS they now have to pay 350 dirhams (nearly £60) for each month of renewal, meaning a year's renewal costs them £700.

Sources at the embassy said that in the past year they had issued 2,000 passports to Palestinians on the orders of the Prime Ministry in Tehran.

Meanwhile, Iranian foreign minister Mir Hussein Moussavi, now in New York to attend the UN General Assembly, has once more denied it was Iranian planes who bombed the Kuwait refinery. He accused the Americans of having encouraged Iraqis to do it in order to promote the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia.

Mohsen Rezai, commander of the Revolutionary Guards Corps, in a Tehran radio interview, echoed the accusation, the aim being, he said, to provoke the anger of Arab brethren.

He also accused France of having restrained Iraq when some time ago Iraq wanted to withdraw her troops west of the Karun river. Rezai did not elaborate.

Rezai said plans were in hand to make Iran the strongest political and military power north of the Persian Gulf. Again he did not reveal any details of the plan.

He announced that families and relatives of Iraqi prisoners of war would be welcome in Iran to see their relatives, but he was sure, he added, that Iraq would not allow the relatives to come.

CSO: 4600/65

ITALY SIGNS \$750-MILLION PORT DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT

London 8 DAYS in English No 36, 12 Sep 81 p 37

[Text]

ITALY'S STRUGGLING but tenacious industrialists are busily exploring Iranian import markets. They hope to revive contracts suspended after the fall of the Shah and to wrest new deals out of the hands of their flagging French competitors.

In an encouraging move, the Iranian government and Condotte d'Acqua, the Italian state-owned engineering group, recently signed a \$750m port development contract at Bandar Abbas in southern Iran. The project dates back to 1975 when a \$1bn contract was signed but later suspended with the onset of the Islamic revolution. Work is expected to resume shortly subject to ratification by Italian and Iranian governments following a successful visit to Tehran by Condotte's newly appointed president, Sergio de Amicis.

The extensive plans for the desert zone of Bandar Abbas include 8km of harbour, 41km of dredging and a quarter of a million square metres of reinforced concrete. The project also incorporates a 90km road and rail network, a desalination plant and a residential quarter.

A spokesman for the Italian foreign trade ministry told *8 Days* that Rome hoped to see exports to Iran rising but noted that many firms were still wary of investing given the continuing uncertainty there. As part of

the Italian state enterprise group IRI/Italstat, Condotte was able to obtain insurance for the Iran project from the Italian government agency SACE.

Meanwhile work continues on the Isfahan steel works contract won by Italimpianti, the plant processing subsidiary of Italsider, IRI's steel operating subsidiary. But there have been reports of delayed payments by the Iranians which have highlighted Italian fears that Iran simply may not have the money for new projects.

For their part the Iranian authorities have been courting the Italians. The Iranian energy minister, Hasan Ghafuri-Fard on a visit to Rome in August, called for increased commercial links with Italy and held out the prospect of barter exchange of Iranian oil and Italian technology. The Iranians also guaranteed the safety of Italian workers in Iran should Bani Sadr move to Italy.

The Iranians are apparently ready to overlook Italy's prospering arms trade with Iraq which includes exports of warships and missiles. But one possible source of conflict between the two governments emerged last week when the Iranian embassy in Rome accused Italian police of protecting anti-Khomeini Iranian left-wingers.

FRENCH BUSINESS AWAITS 'NORMALITY' IN NATION

London 8 DAYS in English No 36, 12 Sep 81 p 11

[Text]

FRENCH BUSINESS circles have not completely given up the hope of commercial dealings with Iran, in spite of the political instability threatening the Islamic republic and the persistent tension between Paris and Tehran.

French industrialists are pursuing several goals at the same time in Iran. They are aiming, when possible, to finish projects already under way. They also want to be well placed to fight off competition from other industrialised countries if and when the situation in Iran returns to normal. The French believe they have the edge in this respect. Given that most of the Iranian opposition movements have received political asylum in France.

In order to complete projects currently in progress French corporations — like those from a number of other European states — are employing either Iranian personnel or expatriates from countries still maintaining satisfactory relations with the Khomeini regime.

Thus, Cogelex is going ahead with the installation of electrical transformers and the engineering group Sogreah is honouring its contract to supervise the operations. Alsthom-Atlantique, an affiliate of Compagnie Générale d'Electricité (CGE), intends to complete construction of an electrical power plant in Tabriz. The state-controlled automobile manufacturer, Regie Renault, whose 40 per cent share in the Sapa car plant was nationalised, continues to sell the Iranians 5,000 assembly kits a

year for its popular T5 model.

Despite the relative optimism among French businessmen, the Islamic revolution has been a severe blow to Coface, the French State Overseas Investment and Trade Guarantee Agency. It has had to write off losses totalling French francs 10bn (\$1.67bn), and consequently refuses to cover any business dealings with Tehran. French firms trading with Iran, therefore, usually demand cash payment in advance, through Swiss banks.

Iran was once one of France's best markets in the Middle East, but trade has plummeted in the past few years. In 1980, for instance, Iran was 26th on the list of French clients, with only Ffr3bn (\$501m) worth of French imports.

During the first half of this year, Iranian purchases of French goods and produce increased marginally to Ffr1.8bn (\$301m), principally the result of increased dealings in agricultural products. The emergency evacuation of the remaining French business personnel in Iran at the beginning of August could mean a dip in sales to Tehran in the second half of 1981.

Iran's main export to France has traditionally been crude oil. In the mid-1970s, Iran provided as much as 10 per cent of French oil needs, but this slipped to a mere 1.34 per cent during the first six months of this year. During this period, Paris purchased 772,168 tonnes of Iranian crude — compared with 174,127 tonnes from Iraq — a drop of 34.7 per cent.

SADDAM BLASTED ON ANNIVERSARY OF IRAQ-IRAN WAR

Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Sep 81 pp 2,3

[Text]

TEHRAN - "Nowadays we come through the first anniversary of the aggressive war launched by the infidel Saddam against the Islamic Republic. This war which was planned by the imperialist powers with the aim of destroying the Islamic revolutions in Iran and Iraq. The aim of this plot is to exhaust the abilities of both Islamic people of Iran and Iraq. That is to limit the Islamic growth which is now prevailing in the two societies.

The big powers, which are launching the war against the Islamic Republic are aiming to weaken it and encircle its effects. They have urged Saddam to perform this task as they did not find anyone of the region rulers more suitable than this pigmy grudging against Islam. So Saddam started the aggressive war with a big effort to occupy a big area of land, discrediting under spark slogans of Arabism and proclaiming some untrue international laws. But he quickly revealed the falsehood of his claims when his Arabism was transformed into Land-to-Land missiles falling on the heads of the Khuzestani Arabs and his progression was changed into fatal cooperation and unity with the agents of the deep rooted colonialism in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Persian Gulf reactionary regimes, Jordan and Morocco and his international laws were altered into breaking the sanctities and honest, and offence against schools, hospitals and houses.

The falling down of the masks from

the face of this agent illiterate regime uncovered for the doers the motives for the crimes it committed against our Moslem Hojjatoleslam Sheikh Arif Al-Basri and his four brothers seven years ago. These crimes were only a start for the savage liquidation campaign which it launched against Islam and the religious scholars and combatants of Iraq. This campaign was set up until it reached its climax by executing the religious Marajeh (reference) Imam martyr Sayyed Muhammad Baqir Al-Sadr and 72 of the best Iraqi religious scholars (the students of martyr reference), and the bases of the Islamic movement such as Sayyed Qasim Shubbar, Sayyed Mubarka', Sheikh Abdul Jabbar Al-Basri, Sayyed Tahir Al-Haidari, Sheikh Khaza'l Al-Sudani, Sheikh Muhammad Ali Al-Jabiri and others. The regime also persecuted the Mujahedin and liquidated them with bullets and executions after being tortured severely and imprisoned the others in fearful prisons under savage torture.

The crimes of the infidel Saddam happened consequently till they proved to his masters that he is a good agent applying the orders of America and Britain and other atheist powers. Thus, he was given the task to launch the war

against the Islamic Republic of Iran for the sake of weakening it or frustrating it if they could.

But Almighty Allah helps the believers and Allah is with his worshipers who fight for his sake. Allah supports the Islamic Revolution with stability and solidarity. Allah will give the Islam's militants the final triumph as Imam Khomeini said. We are victorious in this war, why not and Almighty Allah says: If you support Allah, Allah supports you and strengthens your feet.

The savage Iraqi regime is nowadays launching the war on two fronts: on the borders with the Iranian Islamic Army with the support of the military line groups of the Islamic movements, and inside Iraq where the Islamic movement launches its holy struggle against this arrogant agent. These two Islamic forces, which are gathered by the unity of aim and route, are standing together under the religious reference (Velayat-e-Faqih) with the leadership of the great nation's Imam Khomeini.

We, the demonstrators, here in Tehran, promise our leader Imam Khomeini and the Iranian and Iraqi people, that we will continue the fight until toppling the arrogant of Baghdad. We keep saying: No, to ceasefire, No, to conciliation, No, to compromise with the aggressor.

Yes, to struggle for Allah's sake, Yes, to martyrdom, Yes, to fight against the oppressors, and Yes, to the leadership of Imam Khomeini.

The victory is definitely with us, the promise of Allah and Allah never breaks his promise but most people do not know.

The above statement was issued on the anniversary of the Aggressive War Week imposed by Saddam on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the revolutionary forces of Iraq. They are,

- 1) Combatant Scholars League in Iraq
- 2) The Iraqi Combatants Movement
- 3) The Islamic Al-Da'awa Party
- 4) Imam's Soldiers Movement

Meanwhile, another Pars report from Islamabad, Pakistan added that a ceremony was held by the Iraqi Moslem Mujahedin in one of the mosques of Islamabad on Thursday on the occasion of the War Week.

In this ceremony, one of the Mujahedin in his speech condemned the actions of Saddam adding that the Iraqi nation would campaign until its last drop of blood in order to overthrow the Ba'athist regime of Saddam and to achieve an Islamic Revolution.

The Provisional Consul of Iran to Karachi, Sadr Lahijani said that "in spite of Saddam's aggression upon Iran, the two Moslem nations of Iran and Iraq are brothers and are fighting together against the U.S. imperialism and internal agents."

Also a Pakistani theologian announced the solidarity of the Pakistani people with the Islamic Revolution and the Moslem nation of Iran and Iraq, and condemned the crimes of the Ba'athist regime of Saddam.

In another development, it was reported that exhibitions of pictures and posters were held in various parts of Pakistan on the occasion of the War Week.

LEBANESE LEFTIST LEADER CRITICIZES KHOMEYNI

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 1 Oct 81 pp 6,7

[Text] Walid Jumblatt, a leftist Lebanese leader, has strongly attacked Ayatollah Khomeyni's interference in Lebanese and Palestinian affairs. In a speech, reported Friday, he called Khomeyni a blood-thirsty bigot who "is a shame for Islam, Iran and the Palestinian cause."

It is not known what caused Jumblatt to come in opposition to Khomeyni. Observers believe he was angry with current warfare between terrorist gangs belonging to Iranian and Iraqi supported factions of Palestinian and Lebanese "guns for hire." Jumblatt's father, the celebrated Druse leader Kemal, was killed by terrorists some years ago.

The young Jumblatt said Khomeyni was a crook who had grabbed power in Iran through a well-planned campaign of terrorism, character assassination and lies, concocted and carried out by an international terrorist mafia.

His attacks on Khomeyni have embarrassed the fundamentalist regime in Tehran, who value their chosen Arab links. Jumblatt is a friend of Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader and one-time frequent traveller to Tehran.

Iranian opposition groups have been criticising the regime recently for its isolation, but the news of Jumblatt's attack on Khomeyni has not yet found its way into Tehran's thriving underground press.

CSO: 4600/50

RUMORS CONCERNING CRASH OF MILITARY PLANE

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 5 Oct 81 pp 7-8

[Text] The powerful Tehran rumour mill was at work soon after the C130 plane crash near Tehran last week, which took the lives of the regime's top military brass. The most widespread rumours had it that the plane was deliberately sabotaged by Khomeini's own secret police because he was suddenly alarmed by the efficiency of the army in carrying out the offensive to end the siege of Abadan.

According to this rumour Khomeini was not informed of the army plans to free Abadan. Once he heard the news, the rumour goes on, he was amazed that despite his orders to purge the army and demoralize it, the professional cadres were still capable of outstanding feats.

Those advancing this theory (they do not call it a rumour) maintain that Khomeini still does not trust the army; he wants his own revolutionary guards to get the upper hand. It is also alleged that Khomeini was jealous of the popularity of the army. Moreover, they say, he does not want an early end to the Iraqi war because, after the war, he will have to relax his oppressive rule and get down to some constructive work which he does not like.

There are a number of weaknesses in this theory, however. The main one is that the crash has in fact killed two officers who loyalty to Khomeini was beyond question--General Fallahi and Col. Namjou. Also the deputy commander of the revolutionary guards, Rahim Kolahdooz, was a Khomeini man. The loyalty of Col. Fakouri was in doubt, however.

Bani-Sadr has claimed that Fakouri's loyalty was to him and the Mojahedin. That was why Fakouri was replaced by Namjou as Defence Minister and by Moinipour as Air Force commander after Bani-Sadr's escape from Iran.

A second theory puts the blame on a combination of the Iraqi agents and Mojahedin elements within the air force. Its proposers point to statements by the Mojahedin leader Massoud Rajavi boasting of contacts within the army and air force. If this theory is accepted then one must discount claims that Fakouri, one of the victims, was a Bani-Sadr loyalist. Unless, of course, one assumes that Fakouri, an air force officer, had managed to fake his own death in the crash, just as Kashmiri did in the bomb explosion at the prime minister's office.

Other rumours blame the Tudeh party, contending that it did it to move closer to power by depriving the regime of its generals and forcing Khomeini to call on its Soviet allies, such as North Korea and South Yemen, for military assistance and instructors.

Whatever the real cause of the crash, one must examine the following facts:

1. Eye-witnesses reported seeing the plane burst into flames in mid air. Newspapers gave a similar account.
2. The crash came amid reports of the discovery of at least two coup attempts. Revolutionary prosecutor general Moussavi-Tabrizi said one coup plot, discovered by his men, involved retired army officers and former officials.
3. The news of the crash was disclosed by the regime 18 hours after it happened, which underlines the regime's deep anxiety.
4. In Falahi the regime has lost a senior officer whose loyalty was tested and who was difficult to replace. His successor, Brig. Gen. Zahir-Nejad, has no experience in joint staff command.
5. Col. Moussa Namjou was an unpopular, ambitious and ruthless officer who was called "more Catholic than the pope."

CSO: 4600/65

PROSECUTOR BLAMES 'FIFTH COLUMN', DENIES CHILD EXECUTIONS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 pp 10-11

[Text] Hojatolislam Moussavi-Tabriz, the Revolutionary Prosecutor, in an interview with ETTELAAT said, "The street demonstrations in Tehran have proved that we are fighting on two fronts and we have martyrs on two fronts; on these two fronts we grow stronger and more direct."

"While the soldiers of Islam are gaining impressive victories on the war front, the Fifth Column inside wants to weaken the morale of our people," he went on. "But we saw how our people faced them, and we have asked the revolutionary courts to stand against the Fifth Column."

He said the "hypocrites" had attacked an exhibition of photographs showing the war and its martyrs in Mashad. During this attack an 80-year-old man and an 8-year-old child were killed. In another attack on the Revolutionary Guards Mobilization Headquarters in Tabriz an unarmed guard had been killed. Moussavi-Tabriz was asked what he was doing against such attackers. He replied: "We cannot do anything except carry out Islamic laws. These are hostile terrorists and murderers and they burn belongings of Muslim people. Islam says they must be executed. If we can prove that they have arms, we must give verdicts of guilty and execute them unless they stop their activities."

About the number of people killed since June he said: "The martyrs we have given Islam on the war front and the front inside the country far exceed the number executed."

He added: "According to the wishes of the Imam we are allowing the families of the prisoners to visit them inside Evin." Tabrizi was asked about "international pirates" who attacked the properties of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He replied: "Our enemies never give up. We shall lose hope when America stops plotting against us."

About executing children Tabrizi said: "We do not punish anyone under 16. He is not responsible. If they participate in attacks and explosions we keep them in correction houses so that they will lose their weaknesses and return to the arms of the families. In this respect the anti-Islamic mass media have published propaganda that we kill children. This is not true. We keep 12 and 13-year-old children in correction houses."

"Islamic punishment is one dimension, the other dimension is to guide the people and if they will not be guided, then punish them."

CSO: 4600/66

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS 'APPALLED' BY UN BODY'S INACTION ON NATION

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 1 Oct 81 pp 4,5

[Text] Many human rights activists have expressed themselves as "appalled" by the failure of the 26-member U.N. Sub-commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a major human rights body, to condemn the Khomeyni government for its treatment of political opponents.

In recent years the commission has placed even the United States on its black-list because of its treatment of blacks in jail, a writer in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE pointed out this week. Yet this year, thanks, it is believed, to pressures largely from Pakistan's representative Sharifudin Pirzada, who is minister of law and parliamentary affairs in his country's government, and the Soviet delegate Vsevolod Sofinski, who was expelled from New Zealand, where he was envoy, last year for allegedly financing opposition parties, an effort to indict Iran failed.

The commission did deplore the killing of Bahais, but it refused to firmly condemn wider rights abuses, IPS pointed out in its issue No 39.

The HERALD TRIBUNE quoted Hans Tholen, deputy director of the International Commission of Jurists, which often criticised the late Shah's regime for abuses of human rights, as saying, "Today's mass executions (in Iran) after summary justice are a major abuse of human rights. The UN simply cannot ignore it."

Human rights activists, the paper said, feel that the U.N. must begin to put pressure on Iran if its human rights machinery is to retain credibility. Human rights pressure groups in Geneva have argued for some time that the Iranian government, by the employment of tribunals, is systematically violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Geneva Conventions.

The HERALD TRIBUNE report said that new regulations adopted by the Iranian revolutionary council to tighten up tribunal procedures had left glaring omissions, according to a report by the International Commission of Jurists. No right to confer in private with lawyers before or during the trial, inadequate time to prepare defence, and no right of appeal were all seen by the jurists as violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which Iran signed in 1975.

Sources close to the sub-commission said the most likely reason for the failure to condemn Iran was political. Only four members were at the supposedly five-man working group who checked the complaints, and Pirzada and the Russian were able to effectively influence the other two.

Leading Iranian opposition figure Shapour Bakhtiar last week sent a telegram to U.N. Secretary-general Kurt Waldheim protesting about the mass executions in Iran, emphasising how this must exercise world public opinion. Nothing could explain the silence of international bodies in failing to protest against the "floods of blood" in Iran at the present time and condemn the Khomeyni regime, he said.

Princess Ashref, sister of the late Shah, also echoed the sentiments of a majority of Iranians when she attacked human rights organisations over their silence on the slaughter.

In a WASHINGTON POST interview, also given prominence in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, she said, "I would like to know where are the human rights lawyers who in my brother's time were making such a fuss over a simple arrest or so-called infringements on freedom of the press and things like that. Where are they? Why are they keeping silent now? I would like to make an appeal to the world, the international community. Why do they remain silent? Where is Amnesty International now?"

The Western press has reported the killings of young people in Iran in recent weeks with virtually no comment. Radio and television news bulletins have frequently ignored the street violence and executions, even though a few sources have continued to provide information and the Tehran government announces its terrifying lists of executions daily.

Western women's organisations have also remained silent about the butchering of dozens of young girls. The Tehran government itself has confirmed many of these deaths, so the consistent excuse of pressmen and human rights bodies of lack of proof, which has so annoyed nationalists facing oppression all over the world in recent years, cannot be used.

Last week, for example, the Tehran daily ETTELAAT gave details of seven women executed for offences against the regime in one morning. The press in the Iranian capital reports other executions of young women almost daily.

CSO: 4600/50

EXECUTIONS OF CLERICS OPPOSED TO KHOMEYNI REPORTED

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 1 Oct 81 p 3

[Text] While Ayatollah Khomeyni has remained silent over the past two weeks, his revolutionary authorities have been busy cracking down on independent-minded clergy. At least four clergymen have been executed by firing squads in Tehran and provincial towns. Three were identified as Mohsen Ashouri, Gholam Hossein Hojati and Mohammad Hafezi.

"There must be more than that," sources inside Iran said. "We are not able to verify all the clerics who are being shot by the regime because the revolutionary courts do not publish the names of all the victims who are executed."

Apparently the execution of clerics who do not belong to the Khomeyni camp has been triggered by criticism of the regime by Ayatollahs Shirazi, Zanjani and Qomi. One prominent theologian who is known to oppose the regime, Shaikh Ali Tehrani, is meanwhile missing. This theologian recently forbade his followers to use the title of Ayatollah for him, maintaining that "nowadays every gun slinger carries this meaningless and much abused title."

Recently Tehran radio broadcast a telegram allegedly from Ayatollah Shirazi to Khomeyni offering his condolences on the death of Khomeyni's son-in-law. However, sources in Tehran said that the Islamic Republic's propaganda wing is known for broadcasting fake messages from opposition leaders.

In November 1979, when Tabriz members of the Muslim People's Party had taken the city, the main radio and television network broadcast a message, which it alleged was from Ayatollah Shariatmadari, calling on people to obey Khomeyni. When it was pointed out that the message was faked, the authorities simply apologized but gave no explanation.

Anti-Khomeyni mullahs are protesting at the take-over of all the mosques and religious endowments by revolutionary authorities and "cynical politicisation of religion to achieve personal ends."

One popular theme often played up by independent mullahs is: "Khomeyni abused his religious status to achieve political power and is now using his political position to get religious power." These mullahs maintain that Khomeyni has never hesitated to lie, to cheat, to defame and to kill in pursuit of his political ambitions, and so has breached his vows, so to speak, as a religious leader.

In reply, the Khomeyni camp claim that Khomeyni's clerical opponents are "arm-chair mullahs who relish their cosy fief and lack commitment to the militancy of early Islam."

The clerical opponents of Khomeyni also have asked him to drop his claim to be the sole spokesman for Islam. They have dismissed as "heretical," Khomeyni's claim that if his regime was overthrown that would mark the end of Islam.

"Islam existed for 1,400 years before Khomeyni and will live on forever," Ali Tehrani has said. "Islam survived the martyrdom of its saints. Who is Khomeyni to link this great faith to his fragile, corrupt and tyrannical rule?"

CSO: 4600/50

BRIEFS

CASTRO ACCUSES U.S.--A spokesman for the Iranian delegation to the inter-parliamentary conference in Cuba told the Tehran daily ETTELAAT that Cuban leader Fidel Castro believed the assassinations and terror of the hypocrites (Mojahedin) "the so-called leftists and liberals" in Iran, were precisely the intrigues of imperialist America. It was a plot for attacking the Islamic revolution by the CIA and the Great Satan, Castro had added. The spokesman went on, "It is interesting to note that the person who is the focus of leftist revolution in the world and is a great weight among the Marxist revolutionaries, should call these leftists groups, who are pretending to be in fact struggling against imperialism, elements of imperialism and the United States. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 10]

FARMERS ORDERED TO PLANT--Mohammad Salamati, the Minister of Agriculture, has warned all farmers and landowners whose property rights have been cleared, that if they refuse to cultivate their land the ministry will take it over and cultivate it themselves, the daily ETTELAAT said. The government was particularly anxious that farmers should plant their autumn crops and more facilities were being put at their disposal. "We hope that farmers will feel more responsible and will plant more," he said, adding that the final plans for an Islamic land reform were under way. Salamati also claimed that middlemen in the north of Iran had spread rumours that if rice growers did not sell their crops to the government they would not be allowed to harvest them. The government had stated that this was not so. But if the farmer did sell to the government the revolutionary institutions would then put the rice at the disposal of the public at a reduced price. The farmers' action in that case would be very revolutionary and would assist the oppressed and poor. It would also help inflation and repulse the middlemen and counter-revolutionaries. Ninety per cent of Mazandaran's rice had been harvested and the government had bought 20,000 tons so far. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 10]

NATEQ-NOURI REPORTED KILLED--Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nouri, representative and deputy for Ayatollah Khomeini on a number of revolutionary institutions, was killed and not merely injured as an official statement had said, by attackers last week, say a number of eye witnesses in the Iranian capital. Abol Ali Akbari, leader of the revolutionary guards in the town of Mir Javeh in Baluchestan, was assassinated in Firday mosque. The revolutionary guards chief of Khorramabad was among those listed as killed in the plane crash which killed a number of military chiefs last week. Sources in Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan, have told phone callers that the plane crashed near Ahvaz and not near Tehran, but there is no evidence other than that of local people that the story is true. Ahvaz has been bombarded daily by the Iraqis since they withdrew from Abadan, the informants in the city say. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 11]

RAJAI WIDOW ELECTED--Mrs. Rajai, widow of the last president, has been elected a member of the Majlis for Tehran. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 11]

BALUCHISTAN BORDER PATROL--The border regions of Baluchestan are being patrolled by guards and helicopters which fly over even the three-mile no-man's land stretches to watch for escapees, latest arrivals in Pakistan from Iran by that escape route have been reported. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 11]

BANI-SADR ON ISLANDS--REUTERS reports that Bani-Sadr has told ROSE-EL-YOUSEF, a magazine published in Cairo, that if he should return to power in Iran, he would start negotiations with the Arab countries about the return of the Iranian islands of Greater and Smaller Tumb and Abu-Musa. The ETTELAAT newspaper commented: "It is not necessary to add that by Arabs Bani-Sadr does not mean Libya and Syria, rather, he means the allies of America like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, for presently they have claimed the islands." [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 12]

OPPOSITION CRITICIZES UN--Iranian opposition groups have continued their criticisms of the United Nations and other rights bodies in the past week, singling out the failure of the UN's subcommission on rights to condemn Iran for its brutality while naming Venezuela, for example, for one isolated act of callousness which has not been cleared up satisfactorily. Former premier and leader of the National Reconciliation movement, Ali Amini, in a strongly-worded telegram to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, warned that the next Iranian regime may have to "revise its relations with the United Nations." [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 12]

CHARGE FOR RETURN OF EXECUTED--The Mojahedin-e-Khalq chief, Massoud Rajavi, claimed that families of his young supporters who have been executed are being forced to pay 10,000 rials (\$125 at the official rate) for each bullet found in the body of their executed or shot sons. One family, he said, had paid the equivalent of \$1,900 for the body of their young son. The alternative is that the bodies are not properly buried, he said. Rajavi also reported the hanging of two pregnant women, Shamsi Rahmati and Fatemeh Hossaini, in Evin prison. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 12]

BAKTIAR SCORES UN--Shahpour Bakhtiar, a regular critic of human rights bodies for their failure to try to restrain the Iranian regime, qualified the U.N. sub-commission's decision as a shame. While the Paris-based IRAN-E-AZAD newspaper asked, "How many Iranians must die for their killing to be condemned by U.N. standards?" [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 9 Oct 81 p 12]

CSO: 4600/66

PALESTINIAN ARABS SAID NOT ALL PLO SUPPORTERS

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 21 Aug 81 p 3

[Article by Shrag'a Kadari: "The PLO, Israeli Arabs and Israel"]

[Text] The PLO and Arabs from Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip form two distinct networks. Although they share a common goal, in reality they have opposing interests. When Israeli Arabs became a separate unit, their lives became separate as well.

In public statements and verbalized longings, there is a single national goal. But the Arabs whose daily lives are entrenched in Israel, those who stayed behind, do not physically, daily, live the "Palestinian revolution." They contribute only marginally to the revolution and its principles. They don't live the war as do their brothers across the border who are organized in terrorist groups. They don't share the sacrifices, nor do they share the same international position. Recognition is reserved for the PLO. Terrorist rings penetrate from the outside. Within Israel, the Arabs are mainly organized by outside agents. The general headquarters are external. Israeli Arabs do not boycott Israel as do the other Arab nations. Why doesn't the Israeli propaganda machine explain this to the world? Israeli Arabs work in Israel and trade with the Jewish populace. They need the services provided by Israel, not just those provided by the military regime. The high court of justice and the hospitals in Israel serve them well. But all the while, they are engaged in terrorism. The riots provoked by the youth are like child's play, imitations of riots in other countries, such as those instigated by the new left, led by Danny the Red several years ago in France. These are minor, however, compared with the conflagrations in England today. They don't reach the proportions of the Irish or Basque underground.

Lip service and taxes on terrorism

Israeli Arabs want to maintain, as much as possible, a stable existence in terms of economics, health and education. Remaining silent serves their purposes. Israel contributes to their advancement and financial betterment. They are building new homes, developing, learning, acquiring modern agricultural capability and a civilization. Their local authority is like the national command of a declared unity. But, they don't cross the borders. The schools and colleges, the coalitions and the students are all vanguards of agitation. Their daily lives need not be disrupted. If not for the PLO, Israel and the Israeli Arabs could lead orderly lives together. Their actions say: "The PLO will fight for us and we will be silent." We will pay lip service and we will pay for terrorism with careful organization, by leading

a terrorist charge, by isolated incidents of murder, by organized murder near Hadassah in Hebron, by attacking a bus or planting explosives in one. College and high school students go abroad to study in universities in Arab countries. They don't enlist in large numbers in terrorist organizations. Only a minority are terrorists. This is no way to run a "Palestinian revolution." The conclusion: It would be desirable for the Arabs within Israel's borders to come to an agreement with Israel, but they fear external forces such as the PLO and the Arab nations. Russia and western Europe also oppose an agreement because they would lose their important position as guardians of the Palestinian people. These patrons from abroad complicate the issue, create false hopes and work against the best interests of the Israeli Arabs. If they were independent, they would seek out an agreement. Since they settled in Israel they have not led an independent existence, neither in peace nor in war. They did not defeat the Crusaders on their own. Nor was it the Palestinians who built the mosques on the Jewish Temple Mount or at the Cave of Machpelah. Nor did they build the wall around Jerusalem. The Arabs of Israel were never an independent force. They were always under foreign rule. The PLO is slowly taking on the appearance of an outside ruler, even insofar as terrorist acts against their Arab brothers in Israel who have strayed from the terrorist way. But the PLO cannot prevent them from cooperating with the "foreign occupying forces." The PLO is like King Husayn, exhausted as a leader, despite the fact that many of the Arabs at least partially adhere to his policy and retain Jordanian citizenship.

Their feelings are ambivalent. They are drawn toward independence, but they are used to living in a protectorate. Both feelings--one conscious, one subconscious--are prevalent. As previously mentioned, they have no memory of an independent existence, no sovereign roots to long for, no lost hopes for Palestinian grandeur. They have not great past to revive. They have no past. They are a new creation. Many of them came from neighboring countries, from far and near. When the Zionist movement began, the country was torn apart. The Palestinians became a target for hatred. Some slept on the sidewalks because they were homeless. The PLO prevents them from participating in discussions on autonomy. Perhaps they will see independence, however limited. Until the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate for Palestine, designed to aid in the establishment of a Jewish national home, they saw themselves as part of southern Syria, and never dreamed of a Palestinian entity. Zionism was responsible for that. The Jews and those who refuse them autonomy because autonomy would be a direct path to a Palestinian state, stimulated these second thoughts. Perhaps...? Would it be worth it? But fear, from within and from external forces, paralyzes their self-awareness and confuses them. In other words, their opposition to a Palestinian state as part of Israel, along side a Jewish state, stems partially from blanket acceptance but also from the fear of what existence will be like as an independent political entity.

Perpetual transition

The establishment of a Palestinian state in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is a complex arrangement. It would not mean an independent existence. Without continuous economic support there could be no day to day existence. The people could not support themselves. The tens of thousands of workers in Israel would be forced to emigrate--into chaos. The formation of such a state would result in great suffering to the people, perhaps a civil war provoked by the PLO in its desire to control the state and to punish the silence of the people. This silent people is therefore

content to remain subdued, to steadfastly refuse a solution. Perpetual transition is to their own benefit. Over the years, Israeli governments have seen the wandering eyes and the restless glances but not the psychological complications of national proportions. Living in a protectorate is traumatic but independence means the threat of nonexistence. To the Israeli government the external order is decisive. The Arabs were a protectorate during Turkish rule, during the Mandate and during Jordanian sovereignty. The Alignment would treat them like captives and return them to Jordan under the "Jordanian option," without even asking them. The Likud, on the other hand, would double the Protectorate, turning them over to Egypt and Jordan through talks at Camp David, allowing these two countries to determine the terms for Palestinian autonomy. Jordan refuses, which pleases Egypt who can now be their sole patron. In so doing, Israel committed a fatal political and moral blunder. The new government must go back on its plan to bring Egypt into the talks, for Egypt has no power to speak for the Israeli Arabs. Arabs from the Gaza Strip do not have fond memories of their days under the Egyptian government, which was even worse than Jordanian rule. Egypt does not seek to further the best interests of the Palestinians, but rather to prove that despite the peace agreement with Israel, Egypt is still the leader of the Arab world. Discussions of autonomy cannot hinge on Egyptian interests nor on the interests of Israel and the Israeli Arabs. Moreover, Sadat intends to press for PLO participation in the talks.

He would also like to create a rift between Israel and the United States and to upstage the former. He wants to reduce Israel's importance, to undermine Israel's position in the American government, Congress and American public opinion. Indeed, he would like to do the same in Europe. He is violating the spirit of peace and the orientation toward peace. He is neither fair nor honest and therefore undeserving of a place in the joint negotiations for autonomy. Sadat is exploiting Israel's fears and obsessions with peace. And he is not worried about any harm that might result. As far as Israel's future and security, Israel has declared: The time has come for courage and truth in our relations with Egypt.

A new Arab nation, jealous of its brothers in the greater Arab world, will not move Israel from its course toward total liberation. Their brothers have many nations. They will have a nation, too. They had one but they were enslaved. They did not rise immediately to create new leadership, but they learned from world liberation movements. World War I was an opportunity to gain independence through the European powers--Britain, France and the United States. The Arabs of Israel who asked to be freed from the Turkish yoke and to be part of southern Syria, part of the great Syrian nation, did an aboutface with the Balfour Declaration. The Jewish national home awakened in them the desire to have Israel for themselves. The Palestinian movement and revolution sprang from Zionism and the State of Israel. If not for Israel, the Israeli Arabs would be an inseparable part of the Arab people, without an independent existence. After all, they have no distinguishing features.

The lack of Palestinian unity is not just rhetoric. It is expressed in the creation of a nationalist movement with no unity. The Palestinian existence created the PLO. This is its only creation--a terrorist movement with international terrorist connections. Terrorism is the national expression of the Palestinians. Terrorism is an existence, a means toward an end--war against the enemy. Can terrorism win where all the Arab nations have failed in their wars? The Arabs of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip say that the PLO represents them, that as a unit they are neither ready nor able to perpetrate terrorism, daily, against the masses on a national

scale. The PLO represents them. It would cost them their lives if they denied it. They accept PLO representation because it is a nebulous, noncommittal situation. If a Palestinian state were to be formed, it is doubtful that they would accept the PLO and its leaders as their government.

Destruction as a national mission

In reality, the PLO only represents Arabs outside of Israel's borders. Their problems need to be solved. In Israel's opinion the solution is assimilation with the people of the countries where they reside. They are one people. Yet, the PLO and the Arab countries call for the destruction of Israel and the establishment in its stead of an Arab nation. Destruction is their national mission. Barring destruction, there is always terrorism and murder. Terrorism is not just a weapon for liberation, but also a way of life, a goal in and of itself. It yields benefits that no orderly country can achieve. Terrorism and destruction are like their national flag. The Palestinians do not have a flag of creation, not in Israel and not in any of the Arab nations where they reside. Everywhere they've settled, the Jews have created their own special culture. They take it with them. It is an expression of their unity. This is not true of the Arabs in Palestine. There is no Palestinian culture, despite what they have learned from Zionism. They were the majority in the land and still could not prevent, even using violence and corruption, the spread of the Hebrew settlement and the formation of the State of Israel. Surely this is a sign that assimilation with their Arab brothers, which is not to say religious, cultural or nationalistic conversion, was the solution they chose when they fled from Israel during the war for independence, encouraged by the countries where they now reside. Israel declared a readiness to help resettle them in their new countries. There is no other solution. Autonomy is for those who remained, not those who fled.

The world is aware of this. Those who preach for a Palestinian state know that there is neither room nor justification for its existence. The Arab countries fight with and aid the PLO because they too want to destroy Israel. Since it is not in their power to destroy Israel through war, they are pressuring the world powers to do it for them, politically, militarily and economically. The PLO has taken it upon itself to incite other nations through terrorism, particularly through the terrorism inflicted on the Arab oil countries.

The "Palestinian revolution" has an internal logic and a political one. The internal logic would claim that the Palestinian revolution is destroying the protectorate to create an entity that had no prior existence, to demand a nation of their own. The political logic claims that Israel is on the verge of solidifying its political goals and should therefore be destroyed. No compromise is possible. The existence of the ancient kingdom of Israel, its special culture, the right of return, the actual return and the creation of a strong new state, stand in the way of a new Palestinian existence. Terrorism and wars could not destroy this. Since the war of independence the IDF has defeated all its enemies. Unfortunately, that which was gained through great military resourcefulness has been lost due to the weakness of politicians who have capitulated to the friendly power, the United States. This has been true from the days of Truman to the current Reagan administration, as well as during the terms of Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford and Carter. There is no balance in Israel between politics and defense. Israel should not have retreated from Qunaytirah unless all Jews were allowed to leave Syria. Israel should not have signed the peace agreement with Egypt unless Jerusalem was recognized as the capital of Israel.

The differences between Zionism (the liberation movement of the people of Israel) and the PLO (the liberation movement of the Palestinians) will not be eliminated by a cease fire in southern Lebanon or through diplomacy. The state demands and requires peace for the Arabs of Judea, Samaria and th Gaza Strip, to be distinguished from the PLO terrorist movement. But the Israeli Arabs also become involved in terrorism and this, too, must be dealt with.

A balance against injustice

The PLO is a minority within the Arab Palestinian population, in Israel and elsewhere. The silent majority is not the PLO. The PLO was only able to recruit 30,000 people to serve in its army. One might assume that not only nationalism contributes to enlistment, but the attraction of terrorism, the romanticism, the adventure sought by the youth. This force is not enough to defeat Israel. The non-enlistment of hundreds of thousands of people proves that the "Palestinian revolution" is not as attractive a force as some would like to think it is, nor does it represent the people. The Palestinians living in Jordan, for example, live in peace and cooperate with the Hashemite rulers. On the other hand, those living in the oil countries must worry constantly about their jobs and their means of support. This leads us to ask why the world rallied so strongly behind the PLO. Perhaps it was to balance the injustice that the civilized world perpetrated against the Palestinians by creating the State of Israel in moments of benevolence--at the end of World War I and again, at the end of World War II. In both world wars, depressed peoples achieved independence. The Arabs gained the most from these moments of kindness. The Palestinians, lacking an identity, gained nothing. We saw an end to the importance of the Jewish people and to the 2000 years of injustices against them, which came to a head with the Holocaust. This was a historical turning point insofar as the relationship of the world toward the Jewish people, once and forever, as well as during the Holocaust itself.

Now the world has come full circle, back to its traditional relationship with the Jews as expressed in non-recognition of Israel by the Vatican. Christianity has not come to terms with the establishment of the State, which is opposed to Christian doctrines. Arab oil and "Christian charity" toward the Palestinians cover up the complex and compound truth of the matter. Giscard d'Estaing, the former French president, prophesied that Israel would disappear within 8 or 9 years. This was the expression of a heartfelt desire and in this he is not alone. The Arabs nurture a similar hope, immersed in oil and deposits. Israel was established with the agreement and assistance of eastern and western Europe. Now these countries feel that Israel must obey them and support their interests. The establishment of a Palestinian state would further their objectives but would cause irreparable harm to Israel.

In this light, the war against the PLO is not superficial. It is deep and fundamental. It is an ideological war against a two-faced, enlightened, backward world and against the Arab nations, who are divided among themselves. The war on the PLO is not just a war against missiles or terrorism, but against the ideological principle with terrorism at its roots.

The withdrawal of the enlightened world is so complete that the PLO has risen to the status of a world terrorist power, to the point of allowing 'Arafat, armed with a gun, to appear on the platform of the annual UN assembly, as a symbol of terrorism and international support for the PLO's ideas. But it was not just terrorism that

helped him rise to this unequaled international position. He is perceived worldwide as the man who will satisfy their unspoken desires. Even neutral Switzerland, who would not aid the Jews fleeing from Hitler, has now shown her face again by allowing the Minister of Foreign Affairs to receive Faruq Qadumi. This is blatant anti-semitism, or perhaps a symbiotic reversal from having hosted the first Zionist Congress at which the foundations of the State of Israel were laid according to Hertzels prophecy.

From desire to fulfillment

Is the PLO in fact interested in the immediate realization of the "Palestinian revolution," in the take-over of Israel? Do they wholeheartedly desire this? It is highly doubtful that they are actually eager to achieve this goal, and not just due to their own inability to do so. As long as the PLO is fighting for the realization of a vision, it is worthy of esteem. Once the state is established, this distinction will cease to exist. The state will be inferior even compared with the other small Arab nations. Disputes within will cause terrible wars like those in Lebanon, both without the magic and wizardry of Lebanese banking, without Christian tradition, without Lebanese solidarity, still symbolized by the cedars of fame. The symbols of Palestine will be a bandolier and 'Arafat's beard and sunglasses.

We must admit that the PLO is spreading and gaining political territory. Even the veto of the "F-16" was indirectly related to the PLO. The U.S. secretary of state began to entertain the hope that the PLO would recognize Israel, thinking that now it would be easier for them to do so. The spread of the PLO is the fault of Israel's policy which, under pressure from the opposition, has gone from bad to worse. The "Peace Now" movement was an important factor in the concessions Israel made at Camp David, a tragedy for the nation and its future. As it turns out, the movement was ephemeral. It passed away and disappeared into the horizon. Its strength was in the demonstrations it held in the nation's squares and on its streets. But nothing could help it survive in the long run. The government should be as strong politically as it has been militarily. In order to get the PLO down from its high horse, Israel must establish an office of propaganda. Other governments have failed in this regard. But a ministry of propaganda is essential. Past mistakes should not be repeated. A country so bombarded by worldwide communication must strike back with a concentrated force.

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CIVILIAN WEST BANK ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Sep 81 p 23

[Article by Yosef Tzuri'el: "The School Year in the Territories; Israeli Financing and a Jordanian Curriculum"]

[Text] Since July 1967, the educational system in the territories has come a long way-- in primary schools, high schools, teachers' institutes and colleges in Bir-Zayt, Nablus, Bethlehem and Hebron.

In Israel, the prevailing assumption is that in education as in agriculture, keeping "good deeds" separate from politics will yield positive results. Immediately upon the establishment of a military government in the territories, action was taken to improve the educational system. A hasty survey conducted at the beginning of the first academic year under Israeli rule showed that there were 136,821 registered students, 710 schools, 4,240 classrooms and 5,376 teachers.

These data include around two-thirds of the school age population in the territories.

Fourteen years after the Six-Day War, 277,739 students are participating in the educational system on the West Bank. Around 80 percent of them are in government schools. The rest study within the framework of the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration or in private schools.

The percentage of students increased 98.6 percent during this period. The number of schools increased 33.9 percent, classrooms by 80 percent and teachers by 72.5 percent. Compared with last year, there was a 4.5 percent increase in the number of students, a 0.8 percent increase in the number of schools, a 4.1 percent increase in classrooms and a 7.1 percent increase in the number of teachers.

Sixty-three nursery schools were opened in the territories, with 8,265 students. This is an educational innovation. During Jordanian rule there were none.

Vocational demand

Demand is the key in vocational education. Over the past few years, new frameworks have been developed for training in the fields of electronics, mechanics, carpentry, technical drawing, plumbing, locksmithy and construction. The most important schools are in Nablus, Dayr Dibnan, Tulkarm and Hebron.

Only one percent of the youth on the West Bank are studying in vocational schools. But there is a new awakening in this area, too, and the reasons have nothing to do with the needs of the region. One reason is the demand for masters of certain trades in Israel. Otherwise, the oil kingdoms draw youths who have specialized in one of these fields.

Most of the budget, which amounts to a quarters of the civil expenditures by the Israeli government, is spent on primary and secondary education. For reasons related to international law, Israel acts as if His Excellency King Husayn still controlled the West Bank. If on the eve of the Six-Day War education was free to all who came, then the military government has continued the same policy. But, they are also working methodically toward providing each child in the territories with at least a basic education. The Jordanian government at the time provided school supplies which it deemed essential--free. The Israeli government has followed suit. More than 1.2 million books on 98 subjects, among them 8 new texts, were printed this year, all based on the Jordanian curriculum. Toward this end, 8.2 billion shekels were spent. Supplies and equipment valued at 4 million shekels were also purchased for the schools.

The quality of education, from primary schools on up, is a concern of the military government. Every year, additional training courses are offered to hundreds of teachers, in their own localities and in Israel. Courses are conducted in the natural sciences, social sciences, teaching methods and physical education.

This year, to vary and enrich the program in Arab schools in Judea and Samaria, training was provided in fine arts and industrial arts at the Israel Museum.

Investment and apathy

Do parents in the territories appreciate the investment in their children? Are the teachers aware of the good intentions of the military government? What do the students think about the program which is constantly in the process of being improved and changed? According to test administered annually by the military government in the framework of parent-teacher and student meetings, the answers are not encouraging. In fact, they are exasperating.

They say in the territories that everything Israel is doing now or might do in the future is designed to strengthen her position in the region.

Fourteen years ago, even 10 years ago, hope prevailed within the military regime. They hoped that what they were doing for the citizens of the West Bank was a long term investment of sorts.

Today, 528 million shekels are budgeted for education in the territories alone. But this work is being accomplished in an atmosphere of antagonism, or apathy at best.

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INQUIRY INTO STOCK MARKET FRAUD UNDERWAY

London 8 DAYS in English No 38, 26 Sep 81 pp 36-37

[Article by Annie King-Underwood: "Kuwaiti Shares 'Fraud'"]

[Text]

THE KUWAITI minister of the interior, Sheikh Nawaf al Ahmad, is now personally directing urgent investigations into allegations of a \$9m stock market fraud — the first ever to come before Kuwaiti courts. An unnamed Jordanian was arrested two weeks ago, charged with forging records of an investment company and selling fake shares on the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange.

The Kuwaiti daily newspaper *Al Siyassah* has since named the arrested man as Fouad Abou Jamous, and the London-based Arabic-language daily *Asharq al Awsat* has identified the company as the Ajman Group, one of only two Gulf companies listed so far on the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange.

Stock exchange circles believe that the reason why the minister himself has taken such a close interest in the case is because the accused has alleged that very prominent Kuwaiti businessmen as well as former ministers and members of parliament are involved in the alleged fraud. A Ministry of the Interior spokesman said: 'We are continuing our inquiries and looking into the allegations the accused has made.'

What has come as a surprise to stock dealers is that the market has not been affected greatly. During the last two weeks, since the stock case became known, the

market's turnover has remained at its average level for this time of year. But as the ministry has warned businessmen to make close checks on the identity of the people they are dealing with, it has become more difficult to make quick transactions.

As this is the first time such a fraud has been alleged on the Kuwaiti stock market, the authorities as well as stockbrokers have shown great reluctance in publicising the case. 'It will harm everybody,' said one stockbroker. The anxiety among Kuwaiti businessmen is understandable, considering the stringent regulations imposed upon companies who wish to be quoted on the stock exchange. Companies' issued capital should not be less than Kuwaiti Dinars 5m (\$17m); each company should have been in existence for at least five years and have been profitable for the last two; existing shareholders must retain at least 40 per cent of the equity for a year after the company has gone public and quoted on the market; all the shareholders in such companies must be Kuwaiti; and the number of shares offered must not be more than 75 per cent of the existing capital.

The Ajman Group was the second Gulf company to be admitted on the Kuwait Stock Exchange since the embargo on fore-

ign companies was lifted last August. The first was the Gulf Agricultural Company. Stockbrokers in Kuwait and in London were unable to predict the likely effect of the case on the prospects of other Gulf companies who wish to be listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange. As one stockbroker explained, Gulf companies greatly value the Kuwaiti seal of approval which listing implies, and the Kuwaitis try to ensure that any company listed on their stock exchange remains viable. They are ready to help out at the first sign of trouble, as they did in 1977 when a great number of shares were being sold and the central authorities had to intervene and buy shares at the lowest possible price in order to save the stock exchange from collapsing.

Due to the sharp decline in the total turnover, which amounted to KD1.3bn (about \$4.5bn) in 1980, on the Kuwait Stock Exchange, measures were announced to

allow private or 'closed' companies to go public in order to increase the volume of trading. The 79 per cent decline over the 1979 figures forced the Ministry of Commerce to open up the very tight doors of the stock exchange to a much wider range of companies. The other reason why the Ministry of Commerce took such a step is because a number of prominent Kuwaiti merchants decided to take advantage of the offshore companies' facility offered by Bahrain.

So far this relaxation in allowing more companies to go public has not had a very tangible effect on the market's turnover.

'The ministry has given with one hand and taken with the other, because the conditions to allow a company to go public are so strict that only a handful of companies can fulfil the conditions,' said one stockbroker.

ECONOMY GROWING MORE DEPENDENT ON OIL SECTOR

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 40, 5 Oct 81 pp 3-4

[Text]

Although Oman recorded a budget surplus last year for the first time since 1977, government spending rose faster than revenues during 1980. According to figures released by the Central Bank of Oman on economic performance last year, revenues grew by 27 per cent over 1979 to reach Omani Rials 958.8 million (\$2,773.5 million), while expenditure rose by 42.2 per cent in the same period, totalling OR 925 million (\$2,675.7 million).

Both these levels of income and expenditure were lower than projected by the budget plan for 1980, which had set out revenues of OR 993 million (\$2,871.7 million) and outlays of OR 971 million (\$2,808.1 million), with a resulting surplus of OR 22 million (\$63.6 million). The latter figure was actually exceeded, reaching OR 33.8 million, according to the Central Bank report.

Oil receipts increased by OR 196.5 million (\$568.3 million) last year to total OR 831.6 million (\$2,405.5 million). The Central Bank figures do not make it clear whether this amount was actually allocated to the budget from the oil sector — and which had been planned at OR 800 million — or whether it was the total revenue from oil, including the 15 per cent set aside for the State General Reserve Fund (SGRF). According to the budget projections, oil revenues were supposed to reach OR 941 million (\$2,721.4 million) last year; if the figure provided by the Central Bank is a grand total without deduction for the SGRF, then actual income fell far short of projections.

The Central Bank report shows that the volume of Omani oil exports witnessed a 5.6 per cent drop last year. Exports in 1979 averaged 294,500 b/d, and thus last year's foreign sales would have been around 278,000 b/d. This drop was more than compensated for by an average rise of 84.4 per cent in the price of Omani oil between early 1979 and the end of 1980. From \$28.20 per barrel in December 1979, the price of Oman's 35.5° API crude rose to \$41 in January 1980, going back to \$35.3 per barrel in the second quarter and up again to \$36.5 per barrel in the third quarter. By the end of 1980, Oman was obtaining around \$38.5 per barrel.

That price has fallen steadily since the beginning of

the current year, and was again reduced last week to \$34 per barrel, for October to December liftings by Oman's main customer, Japan. As this newsletter reported in its July 27 issue, Oman cut its price to \$37.50 per barrel on its second quarter sales, and to at least \$36.50 for third quarter exports. Even then, Japanese companies lifting the major part of Oman's oil (accounting for 63.8 per cent of all Omani exports in 1979) were refusing to pay the price, and the Omani authorities had to slash their price further to \$35.50 per barrel. Though not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Oman aligns its prices on those charged by OPEC producers, and as such is signalling along with Kuwait (see page 9) the degree of pressure the oil glut is now putting on Middle Eastern producers, who have so far resisted official price reductions.

Although actual spending of OR 925 million last year was below budgeted levels, it constituted a marked rise over the 1979 level of OR 650.4 million (\$1,881.4 million). Factors contributing to this increase included a 10 per cent rise in civil servants' salaries, the payment of a housing allowance to all government employees, increased welfare payments and the establishment of new health, education and public services facilities and utilities.

Macro-economic data released by the Central Bank show that Gross Domestic Product last year rose by 53 per cent to OR 1,794.3 million (\$5,190.3 million) from the 1979 level of OR 1,174 (\$3,395.2 million). The contribution of the oil sector to GDP went from 61.5 per cent of total in 1979 to 69.2 per cent in 1980, an indication of the country's growing dependence on oil. Consumer prices were estimated to have increased by around 10 per cent last year, compared to around 9 per cent the previous year, while the cost of construction industry materials rose by around 13.8 per cent in 1980, up from 5 per cent in 1979.

Oman's balance of payments position improved in 1980, the Central Bank reported. It cited a current account surplus of OR 362 million (\$1,049.5 million), just over four times the OR 90 million (\$260.3 million) achieved last year.

INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE REPORTED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 40, 5 Oct 81 pp 6-7

[Interview with Finance Minister Sheikh Mohamed Aba al-Khail by Randa Takieddine, in Washington, D.C., week of 28 September]

[Text]

Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister Sheikh Mohamed Aba al-Khail's long experience of international finance bestows considerable weight on his words during the annual joint meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In an interview last week in Washington, where he was leading the Kingdom's delegation to this year's get-together of international bankers and finance ministers, Sheikh Mohamed gave *An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO's* Randa Takieddine some telling insights into his country's role inside the World Bank and the IMF. He welcomed President Reagan's emphasis on the importance of private enterprise in international development, but there was one important caveat: Saudi Arabia wants private development to supplement foreign aid to poor countries, not to replace this aid. Sheikh Mohamed also pointed to the negative aspects of high interest rates in the US on private investment in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries.

The interview follows:

Q: Could you please state Saudi Arabia's position on a number of the issues that are being debated at the IMF and World Bank meeting, notably the new allocation of Special Drawing Rights which was opposed by the US, the American request for stricter IMF loan conditions and the emphasis by the US and other industrialised countries on having the private sector provide developing countries with assistance? Do you think there will be a tendency in the Western world to reduce aid to developing countries?

A: Concerning the new allocation of Special Drawing Rights, the Saudi Kingdom has tried to mediate between the two extreme positions - between those coun-

tries which are for a new allocation of SDRs and a renewal of the allocation and those who oppose it. We got in touch with both groups and, among the proposals, was one to renew the allocation of SDRs for one year in order to settle the conflict. But it was impossible to reach a consensus because some countries are opposed to increasing the number of SDRs, arguing that this would lead to an increase in international liquidities and contribute to an increase in inflation. The matter was referred to the Executive Board of Governors, which will discuss it.

As for the principle of conditionality on loans for the developing world, this seems to be a part of the global policy of the US and the Western countries. This was made clear in President Reagan's speech and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan will probably be more explicit today. The US wants to encourage the private sector to help in the development of countries and these should adjust and improve their internal structures. This is indeed very good. We in Saudi Arabia believe strongly in the principle of a free economy provided that what is meant here is that private sector participation is additional to aid given by industrialised countries to the developing countries. This would enhance development efforts and would be positive.

If, however, encouragement of private sector participation in development efforts means replacing or reducing the aid from industrial countries, we do not think that it is an equitable way or a transfer of real resources from rich countries to developing ones.

There are here two issues to consider. One is that many developing countries have a very weak private sector and sometimes it is virtually non-existent and it is impossible to have development if there is no

infrastructure. Secondly, infrastructure cannot be improved and developed without help from the developed countries. So this new element -- the private sector's role which the US and other industrial countries want to see in development -- should not mean a reduction in aid. But if it is additional to it, it is not bad.

Anyway, this is just a beginning. More contacts will take place in coming months on this issue, starting at the summit meeting in Cancun (on the Brandt Commission report) and then in global negotiations at the UN. We hope that the picture will change. The world has become so interdependent and it is difficult for any country - big or small - to neglect or ignore what happens in other countries.

Q: What is Saudi Arabia's position on high interest rates in the US?

A: We are being hurt to some extent by these high interest rates in the US because they affect the activities of the private sector in Saudi Arabia, reducing investments there and because the high rates reflect on all free currencies, including the Rial. The aim of the Saudi government is to strengthen the private sector and encourage it to play a bigger role in the national economy and high interest rates are an obstacle to the policy of strengthening the private sector.

Q: But isn't it true that the rates have had a positive effect on your investments abroad and surplus funds?

A: Yes, it is profitable for our investments abroad. But it will also doubtless affect private sector activities in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf because many persons in the private sector will be tempted to seek larger profits through deposits in the money market rather than go into investments which need to be managed. So the rates are profitable for depositors, be they individuals or the private sector, but high interest rates certainly have a negative effect on the big efforts that are being made to stimulate private sector activities in investment in development of resources and of resources other than oil.

Q: France's economy has and is still suffering from high interest rates and the strong dollar. It has been reported that President Mitterrand would ask Saudi Arabia to place money in France to back up the French franc. It was also said that he would ask you for payments facilities on the oil France buys from you such as accepting to be paid in francs rather than in dollars.

Can you confirm these reports or comment on them?

A: President Mitterrand's visit to Saudi Arabia was political in character.

Q: But surely you cannot dissociate politics from economic relations between the two countries?

A: Saudi Arabia has never in the past sold its oil in other than the official ways and never gave any country or any company special facilities for its oil sales.

Q: There is a debate going on in the US on a return to the gold standard. What would be Saudi Arabia's stand on this?

A: Developments on this issue have not yet reached the stage which requires us to take an official position. The debate is still on in the special Gold Committee in the US. But I do not think a return to the gold standard would be feasible. I do not think it would be possible to implement it.

Q: You had a meeting recently in Kuwait with Gulf finance ministers to discuss what has been called the "development pact." Could you elaborate on this and explain the pact's aim?

A: As you know, the idea of the pact is to reduce the existing gap between levels of development in Arab countries. There are big differences in these levels and they should be reduced because the Arab nation is one geographical and cultural entity. We have a lot in common and those countries which are more developed have to do something to help those which are less developed. The development pact is only the start of this joint effort. The fund allocated for this development commitment by Arab heads of state is \$5 billion for five years, subject to increase in the future, and five Arab countries are participating in this financing. It would involve many joint projects. Some of them are prepared with the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development and some with the Economic Committee of the Arab League.

This development programme has been adopted by the ministers of the five Arab countries and, of course, Arab development institutions will participate in some financing of projects. The official UN list of 31 least developed countries includes six Arab countries and the development pact is devoted specifically to these six Arab states.

Q: The big issue before the US Congress is whether Saudi Arabia will get AWACS planes. Opposition seems to

be strong. What will happen if Congress decides that you cannot have them and what will be the effect on Saudi policy towards the US, especially on economic policy?

A: It will definitely be a bad thing if we do not get these AWACS planes. But we in the Kingdom trust the American government and the American people and we are confident they will make a good decision. But if this does not happen, it will provide once again an example among many others of the influence of the Israeli lobby on American decision-making.

Q: Has the issue of whether the PLO is to be invited to attend the IMF meetings as an observer been resolved? What is the importance of such an issue? Has an observer any role to play?

A: The issue will not be decided this time. We hope it will be resolved. And of course it is important because it would be of great moral significance towards recognition of the Palestinian resistance.

Q: Do you expect oil prices to stabilise on the level of the Saudi oil price or do you expect an increase in the price of oil?

A: It is too early for speculation about this or to speak of expectations.

CSO: 4400/16

BRIEFS

NUMAYRI ON ARAB SADAT CONDOLENCES--Cairo-12 Oct (AFP)--President Ja'far Numayri of Sudan revealed Monday that Arab leaders had secretly contacted Husni Mubarak to convey their condolences over the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat. Mr Numayri, in an interview with the Cairo daily AL-AKHBAR, said the Arab leaders had asked Mr Mubarak, Egypt's president-designate, not to announce that they had made such contacts. The only Arab nations to send representatives to Mr al-Sadat's funeral on Saturday were Somalia, Sudan and Oman. Other Arab nations stayed away in protest against Mr al-Sadat's moves to achieve peace with Israel. Mr Numayri said he found the attitude of those leaders who conveyed their condolences secretly to be deplorable, and "contrary to Islam and the true Arab nature." "They should be ashamed," he added. "Even a country that has bad relations with Egypt, like Ethiopia, presented its condolences officially." [Text] [NC120004 Paris AFP in English 2321 GMT 11 Oct 81]

NUMAYRI INTERVIEWED BY 'AL-AHRAM'--Cairo, 11 Oct (AFP)--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri appealed to the United States in a newspaper interview tonight to counter "Soviet aims in Africa." He told the Cairo daily AL-AHRAM the Americans could "play a big role in Africa and the Arab world by containing the tide and offensive of a superpower having many aims...." President Numayri said his own experience showed that "the United States never meddles in domestic affairs of other countries. On the contrary, they aid us economically." By contrast, "the Soviet Union is the leading colonial power in the world," he said. "Countries like Libya are entirely in their hands and bombard Sudan daily, even on holidays. Their objective is first Sudan, but afterward Saudi Arabia and Africa. Al-Qadhdhafi is spending Arab money for those goals." [Text] [NC112230 Paris AFP in English 2221 GMT 11 Oct 81]

NUMAYRI EULOGIZES AL-SADAT--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri tonight addressed a message over the [Egyptian] television to the Egyptian people in which he eulogized President Anwar al-Sadat and reflected the feelings of the sons of Sudan toward the tremendous tragedy represented in the loss of the departed leader. In his message, the Sudanese president said that he did not come to convey his condolences or sympathies, because he was also wounded and he was a partner in the tragedy. He pointed out that God has willed that the hero should fall on the day of his glory to become immortal for what he achieved when alive and for which he fell a martyr and in order that victorious Egypt could become the Egypt of unity and cohesion. The Sudanese president explained that the unity of the Nile valley between Egypt and Sudan was represented in Anwar al-Sadat's sacrifices and blood and that he was proud of being a Sudanese in Egypt as much as being an Egyptian in Sudan. [Text] [NC092353 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Oct 81]

GASOLINE SELF-SUFFICIENCY REACHED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 40, 5 Oct 81 pp 4-5

[Text]

The UAE has reached self-sufficiency in production of gasoline thanks to a rapid build-up in output from the new refinery at Ruwais, the UAE's official WAM news agency reported last week. The report said gasoline imports, which had been running at more than 115,000 b/d, have been suspended because the Ruwais refinery was now operating at close to its designed capacity of 120,000 b/d.

The breakthrough to self-sufficiency has a political significance far greater than would appear at first sight. In February 1980, there were demonstrations in two of the Emirates over the high cost of imported gasoline, with students demanding action against British Petroleum, Shell and Caltex because they had raised prices. The foreign firms were then responsible for distributing refined products in all of the Emirates except Abu Dhabi, where the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) distributes gasoline from its Umm al-Nar refinery, which produces about 15,000 b/d of gasoline. The need to import gasoline, mainly from Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, meant that drivers in the northern Emirates were being asked to pay higher prices than in Abu Dhabi; the UAE government responded by allocating Dirhams 450 million (\$120 million) in subsidies in 1980 to create a unified pricing system in line with Abu Dhabi prices. In addition, the Emirates' General Petroleum Company (EGPC) was set up to replace the foreign distributors

(see *An-Nahar Arab Report & MEMO*, February 18 and 25, March 3, and November 10, and December 29, 1980). BP is managing the EGPC.

Self-sufficiency thus removes two small but potentially important elements which could have contributed to disunity in the UAE: resentment in the northern Emirates over the privileged position which the Umm al-Nar refinery gave to Abu Dhabi and, contrariwise, the need to subsidise gasoline prices in the northern Emirates out of the UAE's exchequer, using money that could have been invested elsewhere.

The WAM report said output from Ruwais was being shipped by tankers to storage depots at Abu Dhabi, Jebel Ali, Dubai, Sharjah and Ras al-Khaimah. Filling stations close to the refinery are being supplied by road. ADNOC and EGPC have agreed to colour-code products for reasons of safety and quality control, the report said. Super grade gasoline is to be red, ordinary grade gasoline green and diesel gas oil will be pale yellow.

WAM noted that the UAE would become an exporter of refined products by 1984, when the Ruwais refinery reaches its full planned capacity of 300,000 b/d.

CSO: 4400/16

TRAIN TO LINK ABU DHABI WITH ITS AIRPORT PLANNED

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 40, 5 Oct 81 pp 5,6

[Text]

An expert study for a proposed high-speed 35-kilometre rail link between the city of Abu Dhabi and its international airport has been completed, Dubai's English-language daily *Khaleej Times* reported last week. The planned railway would be built on concrete pillars 15 feet above the ground and trains travelling at 250 kilometres an hour would deliver passengers from the airport to the centre of the city in less than 20 minutes. The rail link is being promoted by the Al-Dhanna Oilfields Services and Trading Company (DOSCO).

The study was undertaken by Reg Gregory, a senior consultant for Transmark, a subsidiary of British Rail. Transmark is also engaged in studies for a rail network in Saudi Arabia. No estimate for the cost of the Abu Dhabi rail project was given, but DOSCO's General Manager, Peter Missen, said early studies indicated it could be built for little more than the cost of a road between the city and the airport but would provide quicker and safer service.

Originally, a monorail was proposed. The idea has now been dropped in favour of a conventional railway. The reason, according to the Transmark study, is that the system "will aim at attracting the majority of air travellers, (and so) it must be reliable. It is therefore impor-

tant that the selection of technology, while providing advanced performance, will not burden Abu Dhabi with untried equipment or a legacy of difficult maintenance."

The railway would be built on pillars in order to avoid obstructing existing routes and to prevent accidents that could be caused by drifting sands or animals straying on the track. Terminals would be air conditioned and there would be several platforms, including special platforms reserved for the royal family. A royal train is also proposed.

The study proposed powering the train either by electricity through an overhead cable or a third rail or by a gas-turbine locomotive. The report stresses the need for a high standard of comfort aboard the trains and there are suggestions that passengers would be shown a film welcoming them to the UAL. The proposed service would be known as the Airtrain.

The report claims that "the Airtrain will represent a major contribution to, and act as a pace-setter of, the transport system of the UAL and be an example of the foresight of Abu Dhabi. It would be an integral part of the economic growth of the region."

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

DUBAI AIRPORT REPORTS INCREASED TRAFFIC

Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English No 40, 5 Oct 81 p 5

[Text]

Dubai International Airport's passenger traffic rose by 7.17 per cent and freight increased in volume by 12 per cent in July and August of this year when compared with the same two months of 1980, the airport's administration announced last week. It issued a report showing that a total of 530,382 passengers used the airport in July and August, giving a daily average of 8,500. Freight averaged 160,643 kilogrammes a day during the same period for a total of 10 million kilos.

The report said there were 147,000 passengers departing from the airport during the two months of this year, an increase of 14 per cent over the number of passengers departing during July and August in 1980; the daily average was 2,733 in July and 2,000 the following month. A total of 147,500 passengers disembarked at Dubai during the same period, 17.5 per cent more than last year.

The increase in the number of transit passengers was, however, much smaller. Transit passengers numbered 232,775 in July and August in 1981, a rise of 2 per cent over last year's figures. The

daily average for transit passengers was 3,057 in July and 2,942 in August.

Exports sent by air freight from Dubai amounted to 2,253,000 kilos in July and August of this year, an increase of 2.5 per cent over figures for the same months of 1980. Imports were up by 15 per cent, however, totalling 7,710,000 kilos.

Dubai airport's head of passenger services Mohamed Ismael said that July and August were peak months because of summer holidays and the *Eid al-Fitr* feast at the end of the month of Ramadan. Mr Ismael added that an estimated 12,000 pilgrims from the UAE were making the *haji* (pilgrimage to Mecca) this year and that departures began on September 10 and ended on October 2, with an average of three flights a day carrying 530 passengers. Flights bringing pilgrims back from Saudi Arabia would begin on October 15, he said. In addition to pilgrims departing from Dubai, the airport handled an estimated 24,000 pilgrims who transited through the airport, he said.

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